

Martha's Paint Job

By Maxine Cheshire
Times-Post Service

Washington

After a memo indicating that Martha Mitchell would like to see corridors in the Justice Department hallways painted shades of "forsythia" and "primrose" yellow, government painters were summoned last night to make a color transformation before President Nixon arrives today to sign the anti-crime bill.

A guard on duty at the 10th and Constitution Avenue entrance last night confirmed that a paint crew had been brought in to work a special four-to-midnight overtime shift "because the

President is coming tomorrow."

"Thy may be here all night," the security manager deduced.

The order to re-paint did not come until late yesterday, the Washington Post was told, although a directive outlining Mrs. Mitchell's wishes was circulated on October 2.

Headed "painting of corridors," the memo, bore the names of James Austin, acting business manager of the archies-justice field office, and William H. O'Donoghue, director of the office of administrative services.

The instructions read:

"At the meeting with Mrs. Mitchell today she felt that the attorney general's area

should be decorated differently than the rest of the building. She would like to see various shades of a color described as "steel blue."

"As for painting other corridor hallways, Mr. Mitchell requested that we set up a sample area for her to look at, preferably at the junction of hallways where there is stone. She would like the stone cleaned and then on one side of the hallway, adjacent to the stone, the walls painted white up to and around the nearest doorway and the steel framing, not the wood, of the doorway be painted yellow. The closest choice would probably be Forsythia, No. 3035. The other wall on the other side of the corridor would be painted Primrose

Yellow, No. 3033, up to and around the nearest door. Again the metal work of the door would be painted forsythia. Please get together with Dick Kidwell to select the location for the trial sample. Mrs. Mitchell will be available Monday and Tuesday to look at what we have done. It is essential that it be done by Tuesday."

Not all the government painters asked to work late last night were eager for the duty. The Washington Post was told that some 30 were finally recruited. Others who had excuses or other commitments were cautioned that failure to show up for the emergency project would make them liable to "reprimand or reprisal."

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Martha Warns the Supreme Court

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

If the United States Supreme Court rules in favor of forced busing of school children, the wife of Attorney General John Mitchell says "they're gonna hear from Martha."

Martha Mitchell refused to speak at a Republican Woman's Club meeting yesterday, but issued her warning to the highest court when questioned by newsmen.

"My husband made a major address to the American Bankers Association," she explained, "and I wanted to make certain the country was paying attention to that."

Mrs. Mitchell said she has "several phone calls to make

when the time is right," but would not elaborate on her plans past the finger-shaking at the Supreme Court.

"Our great nation was built around neighborhoods," she said.

"It's stupid to chase our children to the other side of town. Our administration is against any of this forced school busing."

Martha, dressed in a neat white suit and her blonde hair aided by a high wiglet of curls, said: "What we need in the country is a little more merriment . . . a little more fun. It's no fun just to think about war, taxes and rioting all the time."

Associated Press

Let them eat cake