

Another Word—Or Two—From Martha Mitchell

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (UPI)—Martha Mitchell, the outspoken wife of Attorney General John N. Mitchell, said today that she wouldn't want to live in the White House because "I get claustrophobia every time they close the gates."

Mrs. Mitchell was her usual freewheeling self at a party she gave this afternoon at her Watergate East apartment, touching on women's liberation, showing off the telephone she keeps on her bathroom wall, explaining why she always keeps the shades drawn in her bedroom and announcing that she hopes to write a book because she has a lot of things yet unsaid.

Mrs. Mitchell's comment on women's liberation came after one guest had mentioned that in Texas newspapers the Attorney General's wife was being pointed out as a true example of the movement with such comments as: "Martha Mitchell doesn't have to burn her bra; all she does is open her mouth."

"A woman can be as free as she wants to be," Mrs. Mitchell philosophized. "But first she has to convince her husband."

Showing the Bedroom

Mrs. Mitchell gave her guests a guided tour of her apartment. That's when the guests found out that she has a powder blue telephone strategically situated near the hair dryer in her bathroom. Mrs. Mitchell has been known to make news with her late-night telephone conversations with reporters.

Mrs. Mitchell, who was wearing a turquoise blue wool dress with gold and aquamarine earrings and had her blond hair piled high, also showed off her rose-and-pink bedroom with its king-size bed.

The shades in the room were drawn and there was a reason for that, she said. She explained that the workmen around the apartment and the nearby Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts are always peering in.

The room was cluttered with Republican party memorabilia, books and photographs of her husband and their 9-year-old daughter, Martha. There were candid photographs on one wall, including an autographed pic-



Associated Press

Martha Mitchell with an oversized telephone given to her as a joke last month because of her news-making activities with phone calls.

ture from former President Harry S. Truman to her husband.

Young Martha's room was filled with toys, including dolls, stuffed animals and marionettes. There also was prominently displayed, obviously for Mrs. Mitchell's attention, a long "Christmas list." In the list, young Martha pinpointed as her most needed new possession "a talking truly scrumptious doll."

Mr. Mitchell's separate bathroom has two white towels with "John" embroidered in red on them. In his study there is a pale blue pillow with the inscription, "You can always tell a Republican but you can't tell him much."

On the book, Mrs. Mitchell said that she would probably have to delay writing it "until I leave Washington." She also said that she has a lot of ideas on how President Nixon can win the 1972 Presidential race but she declined to be specific.

Many Ideas on 1972

It was the second time this week that some of Mrs. Mitchell's remarks put her in the spotlight. Earlier she had noted that she felt discriminated against because she was left-handed. As a housewife, she noted, scissors and other household items "are all made for right-handers; everything is done for them."

Mrs. Mitchell said her left-handedness made her develop an "inferiority complex" at an early age. She said she had spent a "miserable" six years at a private school in Pine Bluff, Ark., where "they tried to break me of the habit by tying my hand behind my back."

"My mother and grandmother were left-handed," Mrs. Mitchell recalled, "but they were broken and became right-handers. You were abnormal if you were left-handed in those days."

Going to dinner parties, which does frequently, has created another problem "Someone is always drinking my coffee," she said. It seems that Mrs. Mitchell routinely places her coffee cup on her left and, inevitably, the guest sitting next to her ends up drinking her coffee as well as his own.