

# Mitchell Charges Some Protest Leaders

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WASHINGTON, May 13 —

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said today that some of the leaders of last week's anti-war protest had "Communist-oriented or related backgrounds."

Mr. Mitchell also said he had "no doubt" that some of the money that supported the anti-war groups came from "Communist sources."

The Attorney General made these remarks at a breakfast meeting with a small group of reporters. Asked whether he was speculating or knew the protest groups were receiving money from Communists, he said, "of course we know it." He did not disclose how this was known.

Three days ago, Mr. Mitchell likened some of the protesters to Nazi brown shirts. If the brown shirts "had been called to account before they could take over the Government," he declared, "the world might have been spared a whole era of violence and misery."

## Suit Is Filed

Shortly after the breakfast today, a suit was filed in the United States District Court here asking that damages be assessed against Mr. Mitchell, his deputy, Richard G. Kleindienst, the government of the District of Columbia, and Washington's police chief, Jerry V. Wilson, in connection with the mass arrests last week.

Three Washington lawyers filed the suit in behalf of 15 persons arrested a week ago Monday. The suit asks \$50,000 in compensatory damages and \$10,000 in punitive damages for each of those arrested, on the grounds that they broke no law and were confined under "inhumane conditions."

The suit also asks that any records dealing with the arrests, imprisonment or charges against the 15 be expunged.

At the breakfast, Mr. Mitchell said that, when he spoke of Communist affiliation, he was referring not to the Vietnam veterans who assembled here to protest the war, but to "everyone of these large demonstrations that come to Washington."

# Have 'Communist Relationships'

## Accused on Backgrounds

"I cannot tell what motivated the 175,000," the Attorney General said, but "there were some people with Communist relationships in the leadership." He said the Communist element was "important enough to be one of the major stimulants in bringing these people to Washington."

"If you will go back and trace the background of many of these people," the Attorney General asserted, "you will find they have Communist-oriented or related backgrounds."

He said some of them had met in Stockholm with representatives of Communist organizations and had talked with the leaders of North Vietnam.

Attempts to reach spokesmen for last week's demonstrators to ask them about Mr.

"While standing passively on the sidewalk, Kuhn was arrested without cause by defendants [the law enforcement officials] without being informed of the placing of any charge against him."

"Kuhn was thereupon incarcerated for approximately 18 hours suffering overcrowded and inhumane conditions. Although Kuhn had committed no offense against the laws of the District of Columbia, he was maliciously charged with disorderly conduct, photographed and fingerprinted."

## Arrest Records Cited

The complaint argues that "hundreds or even thousands of other persons were similarly wronged." It says those suing face the threat of further injury because of the arrest rec-

ord that now exists for all of them.

At the breakfast, Mr. Mitchell said the Justice Department had had no role "whatsoever" in the decision to make mass arrests last week. As a matter of fact, he said, "it was two hours before we learned about it."

Mr. Mitchell also reiterated his praise for the way the Washington police had handled the demonstrations and said the Federal Government should help pay the \$2.5-million that the protests are estimated to have cost the district.

In addition, the Attorney General said he expected indictments to come out of a grand jury investigation into the demonstrations.

The Justice Department has already charged Rennie Davis

and John R. Froines, participants in the protests, with conspiring to deprive others of their rights and conspiring to interfere with Federal workers. Both Mr. Davis and Mr. Froines were defendants in the Chicago Seven conspiracy trial.

## Civil Rights Expectations

In the area of civil rights, Mr. Mitchell said he hoped and expected that school desegregation would be accomplished in the South by next fall.

He also declared that he was "certainly opposed" to discriminatory zoning regulations. The Justice Department has not filed suit, however, against the city of Black Jack, Mo., which enacted regulations last year that prohibit multifamily zoning, although George Romney, Secretary of Housing and Ur-

ban Development, has called the ordinance "a blatant violation of the Constitution."

Asked if he was in close contact these days with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who has been under sharp attack, Mr. Mitchell said, "Yes, I am." He went on to predict that Mr. Hoover, who is 76 years old, would want to continue in his job as long as his health was good and as long as he felt he could serve.

Asked who determined whether Mr. Hoover's health was good, Mr. Mitchell said, "The Scripps Clinic, on the West Coast." Then he thought for a second time and added, "The only thing that bothers me when I look at those health reports is who would give him a bad one."

## Mitchell's charges failed.

In the suit filed today, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., a civil rights lawyer and former chairman of the Americans for Democratic Action, together with John Sillard and Elliott C. Lichtman, argued that Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kleindienst "were active participants in the conspiracy" against their clients.

The complaint included a series of scenarios like the following:

"Palintiff Roger S. Kuhn is a professor of law at George Washington University. On May 3, Kuhn was standing in the George Washington University area wearing an armband which clearly identified him as a legal observer, in which capacity he was representing the Washington Council of Lawyers.