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Caustic Letters Fail To Quiet Martha

Laguna Beach

Martha Mitchell is getting a backlash of caustic letters as a result of her observation that "the Vietnam war is over."

The wife of attorney general has been reading mail which says: "What do you know about Vietnam?" and "Why don't you shut your mouth?"

Her correspondents, she is certain, do not know that she has a son in Vietnam, Lieutenant Jay Jennings, 21, who, she said, is living and fighting "in the most primitive conditions."

She defends her remark on grounds of the dwindling number of American casualties in Vietnam. "Do you know there is not one Marine in Vietnam?" she said.

Besides, she grinned: "I guess I can quote the good Senator George McGovern who says the war is no longer an issue."

"I want to go to Vietnam."

she said at a recent interview. "I want to go over and see what it's really like . . . the drug problem. They won't let me. I think they're afraid I'll get killed."

Mrs. Mitchell did not back away one inch from her flip comment "we're thinking of running (Secretary of Treasury John B.) Connally for pope."

"I just think that would be a good place for him," she said when asked about rumors that Connally was becoming the "strong man" in the Nixon administration.

The only time she hedged was when she was asked whether her husband would leave the Justice Department post to become Mr. Nixon's campaign manager in the presidential election, as he was in 1968.

"The President and I haven't decided what to do with John yet," she said.

Speaking of the attorney general, Mrs. Mitchell said:

"He was an ultra-liberal a few years ago and I had to convert him. He was pretty much on the side of the poor man."

Mrs. Mitchell admits she is a "new breed in Washington . . . Washington is so staid," she added. "Protocol is so outdated It's just ridiculous . . . because I'm wife of the attorney general, I have no right to express my opinion. The only thing I can compare it with is the way the Negroes are treated."

"One cabinet wife called me up and said 'Martha, if you are in Washington long enough, you will realize in politics it's best to keep your mouth shut and don't rock the boat.'" she recalled.

"That put dynamite under me," she added.

"I can't stand the nouveau riche and phonies," she said emphatically. "There are plenty of them around."



Martha Mitchell

(from radio page)

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