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Mitchell Dismisses Reports He'll Quit To Run Campaign

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (UPI) —Despite persistent reports to the contrary, Attorney General John N. Mitchell says he knows "neither if nor when" he might quit the Cabinet to run President Nixon's re-election campaign next year.

In an interview, Mr. Mitchell also dismissed speculation that J. Edgar Hoover will step down as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on his 77th birthday, Jan. 1, as well as sug-

gestions that Vice President Agnew be dropped from the 1972 ticket.

Mr. Mitchell described reports that he would leave the Justice Department next month as "news to me."

"I know neither if nor when," he said. "You'd be totally wrong to say January or any other time. And, you might be totally wrong to say that I was going."

"Who, other than the President and myself, would know the answers to such things? I'm sure he doesn't talk about it. I'm sure I haven't. Mrs. Mitchell has the right answer. She says that she and the President have not decided whether I'm going."

Would he recommend replacing Mr. Agnew?

"I would have to wait till next year to find that out," he said. "First of all Agnew's running ahead of everybody else in the polls. And certainly a decision like that should be made at the appropriate time."

Would Mr. Hoover resign on his next birthday, after 47 years in office?

"I don't know," Mr. Mitchell said. "You'd better ask his doctor."

Is Mr. Hoover not well?

"As far as I know he's fine," the Attorney General said. "But I think the President has said, and of course it's the President's decision, that as long as Mr. Hoover is in good health and performs in the usual outstanding manner, that Mr. Hoover would be the director."