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# Mitchell Talks About Problems of Democrats

## Washington

John N. Mitchell, President Nixon's campaign manager, held a news conference yesterday to chortle over the problems facing the Democrats.

"Contrary to some published reports," the former attorney general said, "the committee for the reelection of the President is not engaged in selecting the Democratic candidate."

Asked if that meant he thought that Senator George S. McGovern would be the easiest Democrat to beat,

Mitchell replied that "we are not particularly concerned" about who the Democrats nominate. But he went on to say that McGovern's Democratic opponents have labeled him an "extremist."

### PLEDGE

Mitchell would not apply the description "extremist" himself, however, and he promised to run a high-level campaign without bitterness.

Asked why McGovern has done so well, Mitchell said he wouldn't say McGovern has done well because most of his wins in the Democratic primaries have been considerably less than 50 per cent.

McGovern "is an unknown quantity to the American people and has been pretty well packaged by a media campaign" with ample funds, the GOP manager said.

"I'm not surprised that McGovern is ahead — he's had more financing than any other Democratic candidate," Mitchell said. "It was the proliferation of candidates that allowed him to win" delegates.

### PREDICTION

Mitchell predicted that Mr.

Nixon would win "very, very handily" if the South Dakota senator is the Democratic nominee.

Asked if Vietnam would be a major issue, Mitchell said "I would believe Vietnam could very well not be an issue. North Vietnam will have to come to the conclusion that the president has presented a very attractive proposal" for ending the war.

Mitchell said he thought the Democrats would try to make the economy an issue, but they won't get very far on that, either, he argued. The economy is in fine shape, he said, with 6.5 million persons having been added to the employment roles since Mr. Nixon was inaugurated.

### CLAIMS

He said the administration record on blacks is "a great record" in the areas of housing, desegregation, equal employment and jobs.

Although he offered no statistics, he claimed that "our accomplishments" in the civil rights field are "greater than any previous administration."

Mitchell asserted that the president would not engage in a televised debate with his challenger and said "no incumbent president has ever debated a candidate" and no incumbent president would be so "foolish" as to do so.

Mr. Nixon has said he would not engage in partisan political activity until after the conventions. The Republican convention opens in Miami Beach August 21.

*Washington Post Service*