

MAY 1 1971
**MITCHELL ASSAILS
 VERACITY OF MEDIA**

NYTimes

DALLAS, April 30 (UPI) — Attorney General John N. Mitchell, joining the Nixon Administration's attack on the news media, criticized some of the press today for what he termed "shocking contempt for truth and cheap surrender to instinct."

In a Law Day speech at Southern Methodist University, Mr. Mitchell said the nation was "inviting grave danger" because of "a sharp erosion of professionalism among many who have the public's ear."

"We find emotion and intuition in the saddle, while truth is trampled in the dust," he said.

He denounced the press's handling of the so-called "no knock" provisions of the District of Columbia crime bill, of recently enacted criminal and narcotics legislation and "the widely circulated but false report that 28 Black Panthers had been killed by police."

Mr Mitchell said The New York Times and The Washington Post had reported as fact that the police killed 28 blacks "in a national scheme by various agencies of the Government."

A spokesman for The New York Times said last night that The Times had never reported that 28 Black Panthers had been killed by the police "in a national scheme by various agencies of the Government." On Dec. 7, 1969, The Times quoted Charles Garry, a Panther lawyer, as saying 28 Panthers had been killed by the police and The Times later inadvertently repeated this figure without attribution. However, the spokesman said, as early as

Dec. 21, 1969, two weeks after Mr. Garry's original statement, an article by Earl Caldwell, based on an interview with Mr. Garry, reported that the number of Panther deaths related to police action was on more than 12.