

SFChronicle

JUN 23 1972

What Martha Said

She Told John

United Press

Washington

Martha Mitchell said last night that she has given her husband an "ultimatum to get out of politics" or she will leave him.

The wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell told a reporter of her unhappiness with the state of affairs during a telephone call which she initiated from

Newport Beach, Calif., where she has been visiting for the past week.

Mrs. Mitchell, recounting a bad week in which among other things she accidentally burned her hand, spoke of her dislike of politics in response to a question about how she felt about the alleged break-in and attempt-

See Back Page

From Page 1

ed bugging of Democratic national headquarters here.

ULTIMATUM

"I gave him an ultimatum," she said. "I'm sick and tired of the whole operation."

The conversation ended abruptly when it appeared someone took the phone from her hand. She was heard to say: "You just get away!"

The connection was broken and her suite at a motel refused attempts to restore it. "Mrs. Mitchell is indisposed and cannot talk," the operator said.

Reached at his Washington apartment, Mitchell expressed amusement at his wife's turning to the telephone — her trademark as a public figure — in her upset, confirmed politics was a bone of contention between them, and said he was going to do something about it.

UNHAPPY

"Martha has never been happy with me in politics," he said, saying that she

wants to return to the life they had had in New York where he had a highly successful law practice.

"We have a compact," he said. "We have agreed we're going to get the hell out of this gambit. We aren't going to be in Washington after November 7. We're going to leave lock stock and barrel. We have that understanding. We're going to get out of this rat race. We have no interest."

Mitchell reluctantly agreed to head President Nixon's re-election campaign and resigned from the cabinet some months ago. He also was Mr. Nixon's 1968 campaign manager.

Mitchell indicated the didn't mind his wife's going to the press with her troubles, and said of her: "This is the greatest political phenomenon that has ever hit this country. I would like her to speak at any time."

Mitchell said his wife's sister and a secretary were with her in California and it was probably one of them who sought to stop her phone call.