

Mrs. Mitchell Is Said to Plan Separation Because of Politics

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WASHINGTON, June 25 — Martha Mitchell, the wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, was reported to have said today that she was leaving her husband "until he decides to leave" his job as President Nixon's campaign manager.

Calling herself "a political prisoner," Mrs. Mitchell was quoted as saying in a morning telephone call to Helen Thomas, a United Press International reporter, that she "can't stand" the life she has been leading since her husband left his Cabinet post.

"It's horrible to me," she added. "I have been through so much. I don't like it. Martha isn't going to stand for it."

Reached by telephone through the White House switchboard, Mr. Mitchell said that the report of his wife's decision was "news to me."

He said that Mrs. Mitchell had returned from a series of political appearances in California to Rye, New York, early

this morning "with some friends of ours who live in Westchester [county]." He said he had not spoken to his wife since her return, but that the friends had told him she had gone to bed.

"It's all news to me," he repeated.

Jack Skelly, a room clerk at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, said that Mrs. Mitchell checked into a room there this morning for an "indefinite" stay, leaving strict orders not to be disturbed.

Miss Thomas quoted Mrs. Mitchell as having said that she still loved her husband "very much," but that she was leaving because she could no longer stand "all those dirty things that go on."

One of these, she was quoted as saying, occurred while she was talking to Miss Thomas last Thursday from Newport Beach, Calif. During that call, a man she identified as a security agent for the Republican National Committee entered her bedroom and "pulled the telephone out of the wall."

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* SF Examiner, 23 Jun 72: "Mitchell returned to Washington early this week after attending a plush party in California with his wife, first lady Pat Nixon and several pro-Republican celebrities." ("This week" runs from 18 to 24 Jun.)