

SEP 5 1972

Spying Case

No Threat:

Mitchell

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (UPI)

— John Mitchell said today he did not believe the alleged bugging of Democratic headquarters would hurt President Nixon's re-election chances. He rejected as "ridiculous" any suggestion the White House had advance knowledge of the incident.

Mitchell, a former attorney general, made the statements to reporters before and after he spent an hour and 50 minutes giving court-ordered, sworn testimony in private to Edward Williams, attorney for the Democrats in a \$1 million damage suit against five men apprehended in the party headquarters.

Asked whether he felt the break-in would affect Nixon's hopes for re-election, Mitchell said: "None whatsoever."

Mitchell, the President's former re-election campaign manager, said: "Neither the President nor anyone at the White House or anyone in authority at the committee working for his re-election have any responsibility for this."

"So I see no reason why it should hurt the President's chances for re-election."

"Ridiculous," Mitchell said when a reporter said there had been reports that the White House had advance knowledge of the alleged bugging.