

Martha's Charges Flare Again [?]

By CLARE CRAWFORD
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Martha Mitchell has broken her two-month silence to tell details of her squabble last June over her husband's political role.

She said she has written a letter to a magazine to give her version of what happened in Newport Beach, Calif., when she was given an injection in the buttocks, "against my will."

Mrs. Mitchell said she was upset by a Parade Magazine item which reported that Steve King, the new security director for the Committee to Re-Elect the President, "was not involved" and did not give her the injection.



Clare Crawford

Mrs. Mitchell said a doctor gave her the injection, not King. However, she said, King held her down while the injection was administered. "He threw me down and kicked me with his rubber soled shoes." She said he hurt her hand and the wound required six stitches.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, Mrs. Mitchell showed a reporter bandages on her ring and middle fingers and bruises on her arm. She also spoke to another reporter of burning her hand. There have been subsequent unprinted reports that she was given an injection by a doctor for pain from the burned hand.

Mrs. Mitchell made her comments in a Sunday afternoon telephone call. She did not seem upset. Her mood was more one of disgust than people keep saying these things about me that are untrue.

A source close to Mitchell vehemently denied rumors and speculation that Mrs. Mitchell had had a nervous breakdown. Republicans at the highest level have been whispering and inferring that Mrs. Mitchell is and has been "ill."

"Absolutely ridiculous," said the source close to Mitchell.

The source pointed out that King had been promoted to security chief for the re-election committee after Mitchell's resignation. The source said that the injection had not made Mrs. Mitchell unconscious and that "her version of what happened in the Newport hotel room was accurate. . . that variations in the story were simply a matter of degree."

MRS. MITCHELL said she does not know what caused King, who was then acting as her bodyguard, to pull the telephone out of the wall. She said she was in bed in her hotel room in the evening talking on the telephone to UPI reporter Helen Thomas about her demand that her husband, former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell, resign as chairman of the re-election committee.

She said she had just told Miss Thomas that politics was a dirty business when King pulled the telephone out of the wall.

Mrs. Thomas, at that time, reported she had asked Mrs. Mitchell a question about the bugging of the Democratic National Committee the weekend before by men allegedly connected with the re-election committee.

Mrs. Mitchell answered that she had given her husband an "ultimatum" to get out of politics or she would leave him. "Before she could get away," Miss Thomas said, "I heard her protest: 'You just get away!'"

"At that point our connection was broken and attempts to get her back met with word from the operator, 'Mrs. Mitchell is indisposed and cannot talk.'"

Mrs. Mitchell said again Sunday she did not know what caused King to rip the telephone out. She said he also pulled the telephone out of the room of her daughter, Marty.

MRS. MITCHELL said she was kept a prisoner in

the hotel for 24 hours without food. She said her secretary, Jess Jablonsky, took Marty out to eat, but did not assist her in any way. She said she was unable to contact her husband and she was not allowed to call for room service or a maid.

She said the next morning a doctor and nurse came to the room. "I told the doctor all I wanted was to get these people out of here," Mrs. Mitchell said, "but he paid no attention to me and went ahead and gave me the shot."

"I should really sue the doctor," she said. "What right did a doctor have to come in a room when there isn't a member of the family present and no one has requested his services?"

She said she did not know the doctor's name but that she knew he was a member of the staff of Presbyterian Hospital at Newport Beach.

Mrs. Mitchell said Miss Jablonsky and King both left without a word to her after the story of the disrupted telephone conversation appeared in the next day's newspapers.

She also denied that she had burned her hand. Another newspaper story at the time reported blood on a hotel curtain.

Mrs. Mitchell also said, in a second telephone call "if they don't believe me, let them talk to Marty. She witnessed it all."

I PUT MYSELF in exile, but then this (Parade magazine article) came up. When people tell lies about me I come out fighting. She said she is not angry at Parade "but I want to set the record straight. This Steve (King) caused all of this. . . all that happened."

Later, King replaced his boss, James W. McCord Jr., as head of security for the re-election committee. McCord was arrested with four other persons in the alleged bugging attempt, which occurred the weekend before Mrs. Mitchell's ultimatum.

After the bugging arrests, Mitchell who had been

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to California with his wife and President and Mrs. Nixon, returned to Washington alone.

Miss Jablonsky, reached yesterday at the re-election committee's Young Voters for the President office, declined to comment on Mrs. Mitchell's story. She referred questions to DeVan Shumway, director of public affairs for the committee.

Shumway said, "I don't think that there's any way I can comment on that right now."

KING WAS UNAVAILABLE at the re-election offices. A woman answering his telephone said all calls from reporters had to be referred to the press office.

She refused to answer whether King was there. King was the last of a series of seven or eight men hired by McCord to protect Mrs. Mitchell.

Mrs. Mitchell has been traveling back and forth to New York recently selecting an apartment and arranging to move. She expects to leave Washington by next week when Marty begins classes at a Sacred Heart School in New York.

Mitchell resigned as head of the re-election committee July 1. In a letter to President Nixon he said he had to "meet the one obligation which must come first: The happiness and welfare of my wife and daughter."