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Martha Denies the Rumors

Washington

Martha Mitchell, packing up to move to New York City, declared yesterday that she's neither an alcoholic nor a mental patient, as some highly placed Republicans are whispering.

"I want to be sure my side is revealed and that people know I'm not sitting here a mental case or an alcoholic," the wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell told Washington Star-News reporters.

"I think it is rotten after all I have done for the Republican party for them to cast aspersions on me," she said, referring to rumors that she has suffered a nervous breakdown. Democrats, on the other hand, have suggested she has been silenced for knowing too much.

Interviewed in her luxury Watergate apartment amid packing crates and half-filled suitcases, Mrs. Mitchell pointed to her ring finger and said it is still stiff from the wound she suffered in a

Newport Beach, Calif., hotel last June. She has accused her former bodyguard, Steve King, of yanking a phone out of her hands and ripping it out of the wall to prevent her from talking to a reporter.

She said King had also thrown "me into a window, smashing me into a glass."

It took six stitches to close the wound on the middle finger of her left hand, she said, and five stitches on the ring finger.

Mrs. Mitchell said her

stay at Newport Beach was "a most bizarre thing — it was worse than the Watergate caper." But she refused to discuss the Watergate affair, in which five men were caught inside Democratic national headquarters last June in an apparent bugging attempt.

But Mrs. Mitchell laughingly promised to write a book about all she knows. "You bet!" she told her interviewers. "I'm going to tell it all."

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