

# Mitchell Said to Have Controlled Secret G.O.P. Intelligence Funds

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 29 (UPI)—A secret Republican fund used to pay for attempts at gathering information about Democrats was personally controlled by John N. Mitchell while he was Attorney General, The Washington Post reported today.

Quoting "reliable sources involved in the Watergate investigation," The Post reported that Mr. Mitchell approved withdrawals from the fund almost a year before he left the Justice Department to become President Nixon's campaign manager.

According to the sources, the fund's balance fluctuated between \$350,000 and \$700,000 during that period.

The Post said it had read part of its story to Mr. Mitchell over the telephone before publishing it and quoted him as responding: "All that crap, you're putting in the paper? It's all been denied."

## Another Denial

A spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, which Mr. Mitchell headed for a time after leaving the Justice Department, also denied the story.

"There's absolutely no truth to the charges in the Post story," the spokesman said. "Neither Mr. Mitchell nor Mr. [Maurice H.] Stans have any knowledge of any disbursement from an alleged fund as described by The Post. And neither of them controlled any committee, expenditures while serving as government officials."

The Post said its sources reported that Mr. Stans and three other persons were later allowed to approve payments from the fund. The three others were identified as Jeb Stuart

Magruder, manager of the Nixon campaign before Mr. Mitchell took over and currently a deputy director of the campaign, and "a high White House official now involved in the campaign and a campaign aide outside of Washington."

Mr. Stans, a former Secretary of Commerce, is now finance chairman of the President's campaign.

## Mentioned to Grand Jury

The Post said its sources included law enforcement officers and persons on the staff of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The possible existence of the secret fund was mentioned during a Federal grand jury investigation of the break-in and bugging attempt at Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate complex in Washington in June.

The Post sources said the grand jury, which indicted seven men in connection with the Watergate affair, did not establish that the intelligence-gathering fund directly financed the Democratic bugging attempt. The seven included two former White House aides.

Mr. Mitchell served as Mr. Nixon's campaign manager for three months before resigning July 1 at the request of his wife, Martha.

Mrs. Mitchell said in New York today that she did not believe the report about the secret fund.

"I can't imagine it," she said in a telephone interview. "I know absolutely nothing about it . . . I can't believe such thing."