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FBI Chief Revises His Story About Mitchell

Washington

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III said yesterday that he was wrong last week when he said former Attorney General John N. Mitchell prevented his wife, Martha, from talking with the FBI about the Watergate bugging case.

"I didn't have all the facts at that time," Gray told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The agents interviewed Mr. Mitchell in New York and later he offered to have Mrs. Mitchell come to Washington to be interviewed, but the agent said that wouldn't be necessary."

Gray told the committee

when his confirmation hearings began that Mitchell declined to let FBI agents interview his wife.

"It was a matter of courtesy," Gray told the committee then. "This man was a former attorney general of the United States, and I think we would have accorded that courtesy to any person in a position like that."

Mrs. Mitchell has suggested she knew something about the burglary and bugging of Democratic national headquarters last June 17, but declined to discuss what she knew, saying that she planned to write a book.

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