

SFChronicle APR 11 1973

'Take Wraps Off FBI,' Alioto Says

Santa Barbara

San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto yesterday urged President Nixon to "take the wraps off the FBI" and allow it to pursue an investigation of the Watergate case.

The FBI, Alioto told a joint meeting here of the Channel City Club and the Channel City Women's Forum, should be freed:

" . . . to investigate with unrelenting vigor and professionalism, free from any claims of executive privilege."

He called for the appointment of a special prosecutor and the convening of a special grand jury to look into the case.

"I see no reason why Martha Mitchell (wife of former Attorney General John Mitchell) should not be summoned before this grand jury," he said. "She has said she can name names — and it's time someone asked her those names."

The federal grand jury, convened under the terms of the Organized Crime Act of 1970, should determine "the guilt or innocence of (John) Mitchell and others as it relates to the questions of bribery, burglary and perjury."

"Until this is done," Alioto said, "there is no way the FBI can purge itself of the blot on its name. That can only be removed when the truth is out."

Alioto spoke here on a stop, en route to San Francisco from Washington, D.C.

Our Correspondent