

Martha Mitchell

Fears for Life

By Helen Thomas

WASHINGTON — (UPI) Martha Mitchell fears she would be "killed tomorrow" if she told all she knows about the Watergate bugging case.

The wife of John Mitchell, the former attorney general and campaign manager to President Nixon, made the remark yesterday after she picked up the telephone in her New York City apartment and called this reporter in Washington.

"I'm not kidding, I fear for my life," Mrs. Mitchell said. She said she had "so much to tell" but "I'm afraid I'd be killed tomorrow."

Mrs. Mitchell said she had had threats against her life — "even this afternoon." She would not elaborate.

Aides Involved?

Her call came a short time after Nixon at a White House briefing announced he was personally conducting a new Watergate investigation and implied some of his own aides may have been involved in the political espionage case.

Mrs. Mitchell expressed a fondness for Nixon but said he was "surrounded by a bunch of kooks."

She said she found it "incredible" that Nixon did not name high officials involved.

As her daughter, Marty, 11, tried to get her to hang up, Mrs. Mitchell repeated her fears that "they're trying to nail my husband" with the blame in the Watergate affair.

"I think they're going to try to blame it on my John," she said.

Mitchell was Nixon's campaign manager at the time of the break-in at Democratic national headquarters last June 17. Mitchell resigned shortly thereafter, but has insisted he knew nothing about the burglary and wiretapping, which led to the conviction of Nixon campaign aides.

Mrs. Mitchell spoke derisively of the "little boys at the White House" and expressed anger at "what they've done to me."

She accused White House aides of being instrumental in sending her son Lt. Jay Jennings, to Vietnam, where she said he engaged in severe fighting.

Mrs. Mitchell expressed anger when she was told that White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler had denied that Mitchell met with Nixon at the White House last Saturday.

"That's a goddamn lie," she said.

She said Nixon himself called Mitchell Saturday morning and asked him to come to Washington. She said that Mitchell speaks on the telephone with Nixon daily.