

Mrs. Mitchell Wants to Testify Publicly Before Ervin Committee

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WASHINGTON, April 18 (AP) — Mrs. John N. Mitchell, who has been called to make a pretrial statement in connection with the Watergate case, said today that she would rather testify publicly.

Mrs. Mitchell, wife of the former Attorney General, said, "I want to go on the Hill to testify publicly" before Senate Sam Ervin's Watergate investigating committee.

In answer to a question, Mrs. Mitchell said in New York how she felt about being called to give a pretrial statement May 13 in the multimillion-dollar series of civil lawsuits arising from the burglary.

Records Requested

Lawyers for the Democratic party, which is suing, asked her to appear and to bring with her any records pertinent to the break-in at the Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate building last June 17

or any records relating to James W.J. McCord Jr., one of the convicted defendants, who once served as a bodyguard for the Mitchells.

Mrs. Mitchell said: "I'm very sorry they just want a deposition. I want to go on the Hill to testify publicly. I do not want a deposition because any written word can be misinterpreted. I want to testify publicly."

Mrs. Mitchell has been vocal in trying to defend her husband because, she has said, she has said, she wants to prevent him from being made a scapegoat in the Watergate case.

She said that if Senator Ervin would call her to testify she would have a good deal to tell the Senators, including "some things they never heard in their lives."

Mrs. Mitchell's latest comments were relayed through her Washington spokeswoman, Mrs. Winzola McLendon.