

Watergate at a Glance

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell has confirmed for the first time, in conversations with friends, that he discussed the bugging with other Nixon Administration aides. But he has said that he told them not to go through with it. Mr. Mitchell has been subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury today. He has hired as his attorney William G. Hundley, a close friend of the overseer of the prosecution, Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen.

Another of those accused of involvement in the case, John W. Dean 3d, the White House counsel, issued a statement declaring that he would not be made a scapegoat. The White House then rebuked him, and he is reportedly "isolated."

Both the Democratic National Committee and the "citizens' lobby," Common Cause, rejected Republican offers to settle civil lawsuits growing out of the case.

Written plans for the bugging were hidden from the authorities last year by an unnamed employe of the Nixon re-election committee, it was asserted in Federal Court.

Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., a Connecticut Republican who has criticized Mr. Nixon's handling of the Watergate affair, reported that a locked cabinet filled with papers concerning his own investigation of the case had been opened during the night.

Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst confirmed that he had withdrawn from the case because it involved persons with whom "I have had personal and professional relationships."

Washington seemed gripped by a conflict in moods. The city is in the midst of its spring tourist season, with the azaleas and dogwoods and tulips in flower and the weather benign. But the Watergate case hung in the air at the same time. A woman on the steps of the Capitol said: "This place is so breathtakingly beautiful and so damned ugly—I could just cry." And she did.
