

Dean 'Will Name Others'

-- Mitchell Tells His Side

Mitchell Knew of Watergate

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Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell has told friends that he was aware of proposals to bug the Democratic opposition in the Watergate complex, and that he participated in three meetings at which these proposals were discussed.

But he insists that he rejected the scheme on each occasion.

Mitchell's statements that he had been approached about a bugging operation appear to run counter to the impression he has sought to convey in the past that the entire Watergate affair was a complete surprise and mystery to him.

SUBPOENA

The former attorney general's comments became known yesterday as he was subpoenaed to appear in Washington today before a federal grand jury investigating the Watergate case.

Mitchell, whose request for a delay in giving testimony was denied by federal prosecutors, flew to Washington to confer with William G. Hundley, whom he has just retained as his counsel in the case. Hundley is a former Justice Department official.

Mitchell's trip to Washington came amid repeated re-

ports that the government has accumulated testimony linking the former attorney general to both the planning and the bugging of the Democratic headquarters and its subsequent coverup.

DISCLOSURE

In private conversations here and in Washington, Mitchell has disclosed that on Jan. 24 and Feb. 4, 1972 — while he was still attorney general — and again in

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March, he met with G. Gordon Liddy,* one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, and Jeb Stuart Magruder, former deputy director of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

John W. Dean III, the White House counsel, was reported to have been present at one and possibly more of the meetings.

Mitchell resigned as attorney general on Feb. 15, 1972, effective March 1.

At each of the three meetings, according to Mitchell's account, Liddy and Magruder discussed plans for breaking into and bugging the Democratic opposition, and each time Mitchell rejected the plan.

Accordingly, he is arguing, any subsequent espionage activities, including the bugging, were undertaken in direct violation of his wishes.

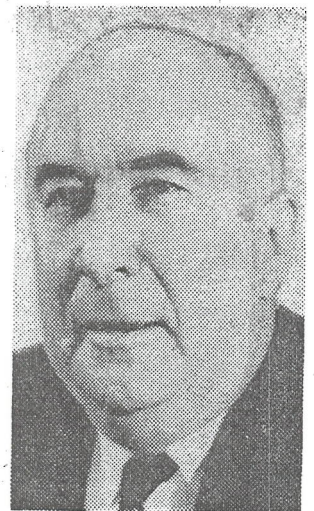
Mitchell's story, as he is telling it here, would appear to contradict the impression of total ignorance of any Watergate affair that he sought to give for several months.

As recently as March 29, for example, he issued a statement through De Van Shumway, a public affairs officer for the re-election committee, denying assertions by James W. McCord Jr., another convicted Wat-



AP Wirephoto

JEB STUART MAGRUDER
Statement at issue



AP Wirephoto

JOHN N. MITCHELL
A changing story

tergate defendant, that Mitchell had been part of the planning for the Watergate affair.

"I deeply resent," he said at the time, "the slanderous and false statements about me concerning the Watergate matter. I have previously denied any prior knowledge of or involvement in the Watergate affair and again reaffirm such denials."

QUESTION

Early last fall, in a deposition in a civil suit brought by the Democrats in connection with Watergate, Mitchell was asked: "Was there any discussion at which you were present, or about which you heard when you were campaign director, concerning having any form of surveillance on the Democratic national committee headquarters?"

Mitchell replied, "No, I can't imagine a less productive activity than that."

*"DeVan L. Shumway, spokesman for the Nixon re-election committee, said yesterday that Mitchell does not recall such a February meeting, and that Mitchell first met Liddy on June 15, 1972, at least three months after the alleged meeting." Wx Post, 12 Apr 73.