

(See VVAW, filed Infiltrators 14 Jul 72, esp. on William L. Lemmer.)

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Mitchell Denies Another Bugging

Pensacola, Fla.

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell yesterday denied any knowledge of government surveillance of the so-called "Gainesville Eight."

He made the statement when he arrived to testify at a pretrial hearing for the anti-war activists accused of plotting to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Mitchell added as he stepped off an airplane, "In fact I'm not even sure who the Gainesville Eight are."

Mitchell was called to appear as a witness for the men at their pretrial hearing.

CLAIM

Defense attorneys for the eight men — seven members of the Vietnam Veter-

ans Against the War and one DVAW supporter — claim the government illegally used Watergates-style bugging techniques to gather information which led to their indictments.

Until hours before Mitchell's scheduled court appearance, his attorney, William Hundley, objected to the defense subpoena.

JUDGE

"We wanted to avoid a long trip to Pensacola," said Hundley. "But if the judge insists, the judge insists."

U.S. District Judge Winston E. Arnow, a retired Army Reserve major who is presiding at the trial, did insist.

However, he said the possibility was "farfetched" that there actually was "an electronic surveillance of the VVAW by private people," as the defense contends.

The subpoena left Mitchell little time to himself between federal courtrooms. On Monday he testified before a federal grand jury in New York investigating financier Robert L. Vesco's \$200,000 cash contribution to President Nixon's reelection campaign.

The "Gainesville Eight," so named because the alleged plot was said to have been planned in Gainesville, Fla., are charged with conspiracy to disrupt the GOP convention with bullets, bombs and high-powered slingshots.

Associated Press