

Mitchell and Stans Indictments Recall Teapot Dome Charges

NYTimes

MAY 12 1973

WASHINGTON, May 11 (AP) —The indictments of two former members of President Nixon's Cabinet are only the third and fourth in United States history for Cabinet members charged in connection with their official or political duties. The first two resulted from the Teapot Dome scandal in the Administration of Warren G. Harding.

Yesterday, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans were indicted on charges stemming from a contribution to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Albert B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior in President Harding's Administration, is the only member of a Cabinet ever indicted, tried and sent to jail. He was sentenced to a year and fined \$100,000 after being convicted of accepting a bribe in the Teapot Dome scandal.

Fall engineered the transfer of naval oil reserves to his department and then leased them to two big oil companies. In return, he received almost \$400,000 in "loans."

The only other Attorney Gen-

eral ever indicted was Harry M. Daugherty, Fall's colleague in the Harding Cabinet. Daugherty was accused by investigators of knowing about the oil scandals and overlooking them, but he escaped punishment in the incident.

Daugherty later was charged with taking bribes from Prohibition violators and failing to prosecute for graft in the Veterans Bureau. Juries unable to reach verdicts freed him on both counts.

Several other members of President Harding's Cabinet and other Cabinets throughout history have resigned under pressure but escaped criminal prosecution.

Secretary of War William W. Belknap in the Administration of Ulysses S. Grant was impeached but was acquitted on a technicality, after he was accused of accepting bribes from Indian traders. He was not prosecuted in the courts.

Aaron Burr was a former Vice President when he was tried on treason charges in a plot to establish the Louisiana Territory as a new nation with himself as emperor. He was acquitted.