

# Report Martha Was In Mental Hospital



MARTHA MITCHELL  
She denied it

By Charlotte Curtis

N.Y. Times Service

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Martha Mitchell was reportedly secreted in a mental hospital last week, but yesterday, sounding as ebullient as ever, the wife of the former attorney general denied it.

"Anybody who says that, why they're just as crazy as can be," she told the Times by telephone. "I'm right here at home. I went to see some friends of mine. I'm trying to live a private life now. Martha Mitchell has a

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right to privacy now, and I'm going to demand it."

Mrs. Mitchell, who telephoned the Times in response to queries concerning her whereabouts, said she had a "pleasant week" at "somebody's house, I don't have to tell you who," that she had "a perfect right to find my little hideaways," and that she came home today, "because it's Mother's Day."

The call was apparently made from the Mitchell's Manhattan apartment building. An observer reported seeing Mrs. Mitchell enter the building shortly before the telephone call was made.

She appeared to be in good spirits.

## REPORT

Despite Mrs. Mitchell's denial, however, a source at the hospital where she was supposed to have stayed said that the former attorney general's wife did arrive at the institution shortly after midnight last Tuesday.

The source said she was "extremely docile" and "possibly drugged" when she arrived with an unidentified escort. She refused to sign herself in, the source said. "That's nonsense," Mrs. Mitchell said while a male voice could be heard laugh-

ing in the background. "If I want to get lost for six months, that's all right. Just tell them I was in Portugal, what the heck."

Mrs. Mitchell also denied a Time magazine article, released yesterday, that said she was distraught, unable to sleep and had suffered a nervous breakdown. Time reported that she had entered the hospital voluntarily.

"That's crazy," Mrs. Mitchell said, "but let them say what they want. That's not so."

## FRIENDS

Reached late last night, Mrs. Mitchell's "best friend," a New York housewife, said the two women had been together in the friend's home since last Monday.

"I was with her," the woman said, asking not to be identified. "She was with me, resting — just resting."

The same friend, who is known to have seen Mrs. Mitchell regularly, told a different story last Friday.

"I talked with her yesterday, no, Wednesday," she said then. "She said then. 'She's OK. I know she told reporters to come looking for her if they couldn't find her, but she's OK. Really she is.'"

## STRESS

Winzola McLendon, a for-

mer Washington reporter with whom Mrs. Mitchell is doing a book, said she also knew where Mrs. Mitchell was, but would not say.

On May 5, at a Washington meeting, Mrs. McLendon said the stress and strain of Mrs. Mitchell's appearance to give a deposition in the \$6.4 million civil suit against officials of the Committee for the Re-election of the President and the mounting evidence concerning her husband's possible involvement in the Watergate affair might be too much for her.

"She just might have a nervous breakdown," Mrs. McLendon said then.

By Tuesday, however, Mrs. McLendon was saying, "She's fine and I can't say another word."

Mrs. McLendon could not be reached yesterday.

Telephone callers were told she had gone to Europe. Mitchell could not be reached for comment either.