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Martha Mitchell Reported To Have Had Breakdown

Martha Mitchell was reported yesterday by Time magazine to have suffered a nervous breakdown and voluntarily entered a medical institution, but a family spokesman said she was in New York City yesterday although she had been gone during the week. Attempts to reach her were unsuccessful.

Time said Mrs. Mitchell, wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, decided to seek medical aid before the indictment of her husband Thursday by a federal grand jury on charges of obstructing justice and lying to a grand jury.

Three days after appearing at a May 3 hearing in connection with a civil suit stemming from the Watergate affair, Mrs. Mitchell was "unable to sleep, distraught and unhappy," Time said. She then "put herself under doctor's care and voluntarily entered a medical institution last week for treatment of a nervous breakdown," the magazine said. It did not name the institution.