

## She Blames 'Mr. President'

# Martha's Wrath

New York

Martha Mitchell said yesterday her husband, former Attorney General John Mitchell, has been protecting President Nixon in the Watergate scandal.

She suggested that Mr. Nixon might be impeached if he does not resign.

In an angry, impromptu news conference outside her Fifth avenue apartment, Mrs. Mitchell said the White House must bear "all the blame" for Watergate.

"They tried to make my husband the fall guy. But he's the good guy," said Mrs. Mitchell. She said she was speaking both for Mitchell and herself.

"John Mitchell was the honest one in the whole lousy bunch of SOBs," she said. "And who do you think he has been protecting?" Asked what she meant by that, Mrs. Mitchell said emphatically: "Mr. President."

"Mr. Mitchell and I went to Washington to help this country," she said. "We didn't make one iota of profit from anything. Where do you think all this originated? Do you think my husband is that stupid?"

"You can place all the blame right on the White House and if you've got any sense at all

you'll find out where it is."

Mrs. Mitchell said her husband told her yesterday that "if anything happens to the President the country will fall apart."

She said she replied that it would be a "darn better idea" for Mr. Nixon to resign than to be impeached.

Mrs. Mitchell's comments, which were televised by NBC, came after convicted Watergate conspirator James McCord told the Senate Watergate committee he believed he was acting on orders from Mitchell in the June 17, 1972, bugging of Democratic national headquarters.

Mitchell, Mr. Nixon's 1972 campaign manager, and Maurice Stans, campaign finance director, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in New York on charges of perjury and obstructing justice in connection with a \$200,000 contribution to the Nixon re-election campaign by financier Robert Vesco.

Mrs. Mitchell told the reporters she wanted to apologize for "being mean—but I've been mean on purpose . . . to get publicity to clear two innocent people—my husband and myself.

"I depend on you, the press, to protect me and my husband," she said.

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