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Testimony Contradicts Mitchell's

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

The assertion by a Nixon re-election committee official during the Senate Watergate hearings that John N. Mitchell was involved in approving major Presidential campaign decisions while still Attorney General contradicts Mitchell's own sworn testimony before another Senate committee in March, 1972.

On Thursday, Robert C. Odle Jr., former administrative director of the re-election committee, testified before the Senate select Watergate committee that major campaign decisions in the form of "decision memos" were being cleared regularly with Mitchell as far back as May, 1971.

But on March 15, 1972 during Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on Justice Department dealings with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., Mitchell denied under oath that he had any such role in the campaign up to that time.

At the time of his appearance before that Senate committee, Mitchell had resigned as Attorney General, as of March 1, 1972, but had not yet been officially named director of the re-election committee.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) asked Mitchell at the March 15 hearing concerning ITT: "Do you remember what (Republican Party) responsibilities you had prior to March 1?"

Mitchell answered: "I do not have and did not have any responsibilities and have no party responsibilities now, Senator."

Kennedy: "No re-election campaign responsibilities?"

Mitchell: "Not as yet. I hope to. I am going to make the application to the chairman of the committee if I ever get through with these hearings."