

Alioto Calls Mitchell 'Evil Man'

By George Murphy

Mayor Joseph L. Alioto told a national television audience yesterday he believes that "everybody now knows (former U.S. Attorney General) John Mitchell is basically an evil man who will do anything for a political purpose," a theorem Alioto has been propounding for three years.

Appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" with five other big city mayors attending the U.S. Conference of Mayors here, Alioto recalled:

"I said in 1969 there was a program of political espionage headed by John Mitchell's Justice Department.

"I also mentioned John Ehrlichman, whom almost no one had heard of at that time, and Egil Krogh, whom absolutely no one had heard of."

Ehrlichman and Krogh have since been mentioned prominently in the Watergate scandal.

WATERGATE

All six mayors interviewed — Alioto, Louie Welch of Houston, Pete Wilson of San Diego, Ben Boo of Duluth, Minn., Kenneth Gibson of Newark, N.J., and Neil Goldschmidt of Portland, Ore., — appeared to feel the conference here would be better served if Watergate were not a major issue for discussion.

Welch, conference chairman, who was a leading Democrat for Nixon last year, noted there is no resolution before the conference specifically mentioning the scandal.

"I think the people want the truth about it, but they are tired of speculation," Welch said. "At this conference, we don't — at least I for one don't — have the expertise in investigative fields, and we have much important work to do here (rather than debate the scandal)."

BELIEFS

Goldschmidt said he found "a certain amount of paralysis" in relations between the cities and the White House because of Watergate, and suggested that aspect of the case might be discussed.



MAYORS ALIOTO, WILSON AND GIBSON
All three prefer Watergate not be a major issue

Alioto suggested the scandal shows "we ought to stop making campaign managers into attorneys general. Maybe we should go back to the old system of naming them postmasters general — that way all they have to do is lick stamps."

1969

Alioto launched his attack on Mitchell when he was indicted in 1969 on an alleged illegal fee-splitting charge in Washington state.

The mayor was acquitted of that, won a civil suit brought against him by Washington state and also won a libel suit against Look magazine (although the jury, while holding an article in Look about Alioto was libelous, disagreed on whether the libel was malicious).

Alioto said his major concern is that President Nixon isn't getting the proper information about the plight of the major cities.

After the program, Alioto enlarged:

"If he wasn't getting the proper information about what his re-election cam-

paign was doing, how can we assume he's getting proper information about the cities?"

Alioto said he feels the cities are the "orphans of this administration."

SECRETARY

This was rebutted later in the day by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development James T. Lynn, who told a press conference:

"The cities are not orphans at all, but vital elements in (the administration's) domestic planning."

Lynn said that Kenneth Cole, who now heads the Domestic Council, and his deputy, James Falk, work closely with HUD, and "we have all the access we need to the President."

Lynn added, "I see no sign that the mechanisms are not working effectively."

The program for today calls for formal addresses of welcome by Governor Ronald Reagan and by Alioto at the St. Francis Hotel, a report by Welch, a luncheon speech by Lynn and, in the afternoon, a tour of Alcatraz Island.