

# Mitchell Now Seen As 'Target'

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Lawyers for former Attorney General John N. Mitchell urged Senate Watergate investigators yesterday not to force Mitchell to testify, claiming he has become "a target" of a grand jury indictment, it was learned.

In a letter to Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.), chairman of the select Watergate committee, Attorney William G. Hundley petitioned the committee "To withdraw its subpoena compelling the appearance of my client, John N. Mitchell," sources said.

According to the sources, Hundley told the committee that "The cold fact of the matter is the Justice Department prosecutor has presented evidence tending to incriminate Mr. Mitchell concerning Watergate to the grand jury," and "they are going to recommend that the grand jury indict Mr. Mitchell and in the present climate the grand jury is going to follow their recommendation."

"By compelling Mr. Mitchell to appear before this committee you are in fact compelling him to spell out his entire defense to criminal charges against him" before the prosecution has evidence proving its charges, the sources quoted Hundley's letter as saying.

"That criminal trial will cover precisely the same areas that this committee now wants to interrogate Mr. Mitchell about—i.e., authorization for the Watergate bugging, cover-up and obstruction of justice after the June 17 arrest, and perjury" at the trial of the Watergate burglars last year, sources said the committee was told.