

SFC
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Anti-Alioto Plot Denied By Mitchell

New York

John Mitchell, the former attorney general, denied in a deposition yesterday any knowledge of an alleged Nixon administration plot to discredit San Francisco's Mayor Joseph Alioto by linking him to the Mafia.

Attorney Darrell Solomon, representing Alioto's brother-in-law, Rudolph Papale, in a \$2 million libel suit filed in 1970 against Look magazine, took the deposition in Mitchell's Fifth avenue apartment.

Solomon told newsmen after the interview that Mitchell "answered every question and his attitude was friendly."

Papale is suing Cowles Communications, publisher of the defunct magazine, and the two authors of a 1969 article claiming that he and the mayor were "enmeshed" with the Mafia.

The mayor's own suit against Look ended with two hung juries. A federal judge eventually held that while the article was false, there was insufficient evidence to prove malice — necessary for either a third trial or damages.

Mitchell was ordered by a New York judge to give the deposition after Papale said he needed to know whether the former attorney general "activated the massive simultaneous disclosure by five federal investigative agencies reporting a number of Mafia members to Look authors."

Papale said he also needed to know whether the magazine and the authors, Richard Carlson and Lance Brisson, knowingly promoted the article "in conspiracy with certain offices of government in 1969 as part of an effort to eliminate Mayor Alioto as a rising political candidate in the Democratic party."

Our Correspondent