

Mitchell Will 'Tough It

WASHINGTON — (CST) — One of the newsmen perpetually hounding former Attorney General John Mitchell in New York these days got a microphone in front of him recently and said, "Mr. Mitchell, you used to be the symbol of law and order . . ."

Mitchell, under one indictment and possibly facing more, surged off camera with the parting shot, "I still am."

It was a symbolic performance by the Nixon Administration's former top lawyer, Mr. Tough-Guy, the Iron Chancellor.

Mitchell gives nothing, admits nothing, dismisses charges, denies all, at his best, he does it in a phrase: "Absolutely ridiculous!" "How irresponsible!" "Never heard of it!"

'Outlandish'

As matters now stand, Mitchell is expected to tough it out when he appears before the senate Watergate committee beginning Tuesday.

He is expected to say that, yes, he was at meetings last January, February and March at which convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy presented plans to bug Democratic party headquarters.

In spite of testimony by Mitchell's former deputy at the president Nixon's re-election committee, Jeb Stuart Magruder, though, Mitchell is expected to declare that he consistently rejected Liddy's plans as "outlandish." Magruder said that Mitchell "signed off" on the break-in plan last March 30.

Coverup

When employees of the election committee, which Mitchell headed, were arrested inside the Democratic headquarters June 17, 1972,

Mitchell announced that they had no connection whatever with the committee, though one proved to be its security director.

Magruder and star Watergate witness John W. Dean III have testified that Mitchell was involved in efforts to cover up Watergate almost from the outset, that one of the first cover up meetings was held in Mitchell's apartment in the same complex.

Seemingly, it will be impossible for Mitchell to deny involvement in the coverup, the event to which he plans to acknowledge involvement is not known. Mitchell's lawyers have said that he will not plead the fifth amendment.

But, what will he say about President Nixon, his old friend?

According to Mitchell's lawyer, William G. Hundley, Mitchell "will in no way incriminate the President." Hundley said last week that Mitchell "definitely has no information implicating the President in the Watergate bugging or the cover-up." *

Buzhardt Memo

Hundley made those statements just after the White House officially disavowed a document prepared by Presidential special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt charging Mitchell with complicity in pre-Watergate planning and its coverup. *

The Buzhardt memo went so far as to say that Mitchell was "patron" of Dean, who has accused Nixon of involvement in the cover-up and who was accused in the Buzhardt memo of masterminding Watergate.

However, suddenly White



Mitchell: Still 'Mr. Law and Order'

House spokesmen announced that the Buzhardt memo did not represent the White House's actual position. Just as suddenly, Hundley announced that Mitchell would in no way implicate Nixon.

Mitchell's outspoken wife, Martha, has alleged that if her husband does clear Nixon, he will not be telling the truth. She has said Mitchell is "protecting the President" and that Nixon should resign.

Although, contrary to earlier reports, Mrs. Mitchell is welcome to sit in the Watergate hearing room next week as far as the committee is concerned, she is not expected to be a committee witness.

The panel will have to get at the truth that Mitchell has by questioning Mitchell. The committee is aware, for

example, that Mitchell and Nixon talked nearly every day by telephone throughout the 1972 campaign, even after Mitchell left as re-election committee director in July.

The Questions

If Mitchell knew of and was involved in the cover-up, did he never breathe a word of it to the President.

What was said by the two men when Mitchell announced to Nixon that he had to quit the campaign?

Did Mitchell resign solely because of the objections of his wife, Martha?

Did Nixon ask Mitchell what Mrs. Mitchell was referring to when she talked of "dirty business" going on at the campaign?

These, presumably, are among the questions that Mitchell will be asked about by the Watergate committee.

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