

Martha Says John Has Left Her

By Helen Thomas
United Press

Washington

Martha Mitchell said last night that her husband, President Nixon's former attorney general and campaign director, has left her.

In a telephone call to United Press International, Mrs. Mitchell said Mr. Nixon's former close adviser, John

N. Mitchell, now under indictment in New York and subject to investigation by the Watergate grand jury in Washington, left their New York apartment on advice of his lawyers.

"He walked out, yes," she said. "But I've been trying to get him out. If you've got a man 24 hours a day — I couldn't stand it. He was

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watching the football games."

"I'm so glad he's out of here. Anyone who sits here and never goes out, and never accepts invitations."

She added: "I guess I'll have to see my lawyer."

She said Mitchell seldom went out of their apartment "because I guess he has been so distraught."

She said that a published report that her husband was trying to get her to undergo psychiatric care was "a goddamned lie."

"I never had a fight with him," she said.

CLOTHES

In its current edition, Newsweek magazine reports:

"On one occasion, friends said, Martha pitched her husband's clothes out into the hall" of their Fifth avenue apartment. "On another, they reported, she set fire to his personal papers."

According to Newsweek, over the past six weeks Mitchell had twice tried — unsuccessfully — to have

Martha hospitalized and during one of those weeks he even had a psychiatrist move in with them to give his wife constant care — and presumably supervision.

But, added the magazine, "Martha is said to have cooperated only sporadically, and her tantrums continued."

MEDIA

Newsweek said Mitchell believes the media is primarily to blame. "You'd think the media would understand and leave Martha alone." Mitchell is reported to have told a friend. "It's obvious that anyone who knows her that she's a sick woman."

Mrs. Mitchell did not say when her husband had left their apartment in a fashionable section of Fifth avenue. "I was sleeping at the time," she said.

Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans are under indictment on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice in connection with a \$200,000 contribution to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign from financier Robert L. Vesco, who was being investigated at the time by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Newsweek quotes a "family intimate" as reporting that Mitchell had left his wife after a series of "violent outbursts." *United Press*