

Martha Mitchell on

Martha Mitchell, estranged wife of the former Attorney General now on trial in New York, said yesterday that she had been falsely called insane and alcoholic because that was "the normal thing the White House puts out about people they want to discard."

But in a live interview on the "Today" show, Mrs. Mitchell refused to answer

specific questions about the Nixon administration because, she said, she was "confused" and "couldn't be a good witness."

Her lawyer-agent, Paul Gitlin, said afterward in response to a telephone inquiry that he had advised her "not to go on the air and say for free what's going to be in her book." Mrs.

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the 'Today' Show 'A Lady'

Mitchell's autobiography, written with Winzola McLendon, will be out early next year, he said.

During the show, hostess Barbara Walters repeatedly asked Mrs. Mitchell what she knew about governmental activities and whether she thought that President Nixon should be impeached, but Mrs. Mitchell was eva-

sive. She, in turn, asked Miss Walters if she could return to promote her book when it was published, and Miss Walters agreed.

"She behaved like a lady—I don't know what more you're supposed to do on the 'Today' show," Gitlin said. "She showed everyone that she's not a lush, but rather a handsome woman and quite

articulate. That's what the show was supposed to be about."

Mrs. Mitchell did say that she had been framed, and that her daughter, Marty, was now "brainwashed" against her. But when asked who was the "they" acting against her, she replied, "I don't blame it on John."

—Judith Martin