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Mitchell

jury studies the witnesses

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal court jury turned its attention yesterday toward the credibility of key government witnesses as it deliberated for a third day the criminal conspiracy case against former Attorney General John Mitchell and ex-Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans.

Among targets of scrutiny was ousted White House counsel John W. Dean III.

At the same time, the nine men and three women jurors continued to review perjury charges against Mitchell,

However, the jury's first request for the day — and the fourth sent out to federal Judge Lee Gagliardi since it got the case at 4:55 Thursday — could apply also to Stans, and constitute an enlargement of the scope of the panel's deliberations.

The nine men and a three women jurors returned to their hotel at 7:15 p.m., the earliest by three hours that they have called it quits.

They will resume deliberations at 10 a.m. today.

Hitherto, the jurors have appeared to be concentrating

mainly on the government's case against Mitchell.