

Left Lucrative Job to Aid Nixon**Mitchell: Bonds to Politics**

By Stephen Isaacs

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NEW YORK, April 28—John Newton Mitchell, 60, was the most prominent "bond attorney" in New York before he became involved in national politics.

He said at the trial that his annual income while an attorney exceeded \$300,000, and he had a comfortable life with Martha and their daughter, Marty, in a rambling house overlooking a golf course in Rye, N.Y.

His legal difficulties have taken a toll on him, both emotionally and financially. He is said to be relying on old associates for help in paying his legal fees, and his much-publicized marriage with the former Martha Beall has foundered.

He has been living in a hotel on Manhattan's Central Park South since walking out on their Fifth Avenue apartment. The hotel, the Essex House is owned by the Marriott Corp., headed by the President's long-time supporter, J. Willard Marriott of Washington.

As he said at the trial, Mitchell came to know Richard Nixon in the practice of law in New York and he and

Mr. Nixon helped engineer the merger of their two firms. The new firm became Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, Alexander and Mitchell.

Through in effect filling vacuums, he ended up as Mr. Nixon's campaign chief in 1968, and politicians here credit him with winning Mr. Nixon the 1968 Republican nomination.

"Somebody had to take over and run the campaign," Mitchell testified here. "I was the unfortunate one that had to do it."

After Mr. Nixon won the presidency, he appealed to Mitchell repeatedly, Mitchell said, to become his Attorney General. "I was not interested in it," he testified. "I felt that my devotion of the time to the campaign of 1968 had taken me away from the practice of law as long as I wanted to be . . ."

But, said Mitchell, the President finally prevailed on his 25th or 26th request.

As it became quite clear during the trial, Mitchell also ran the President's 1972 campaign — even after the Committee for the Re-election of the President claimed that he had stopped doing so.

He officially resigned as Attorney General on March 1, 1972, to take over the 1972 campaign, and ostensibly quit that job on June 30, in the wake of the Watergate break-ins. At the time he insisted that his wife made him quit.

As testimony here revealed, he continued to run the campaign from his private law office upstairs at 1701 Pennsylvania Ave., and later when he moved back to New York City.

Mitchell, a superb athlete in his youth, was an almost-par golfer well into his 50s, even though hampered by the residual effects of shrapnel wounds he suffered in World War II. He was a PT-boat commander in the South Pacific.

The Detroit-born Mitchell was mostly raised in Long Island and in Queens, and he quickly became known in a then-burgeoning specialty area of the law—municipal bonds.

Although his reputation is that of a tough, hard-boiled man, he is probably personally responsible for the building of more public housing in America through bond financing—than any other individual.