

Notes Mitchell May Have

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Before resigning as President Nixon's campaign manager, two weeks after the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in arrests, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell apparently destroyed "personal communications on (the) campaign" from Mr. Nixon and former White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman, according

to Mitchell's own handwritten notes.

The set of notes, a copy of which has been obtained by the Washington Post, represents the first indication that communications from either the President or Haldeman might have been destroyed following the Watergate arrests.

Written on a legal pad, apparently in preparation for Mitchell's testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee last June, his

notes say at one point:

"When I left Committee (7-1) the only documents that were destroyed were personal communications on campaign from R.N. and HRH.

"All other campaign documents were left in office . . . with exception of material on State Committees which was forwarded to State Coordinators."

Mitchell's notes offer no hint of what the destroyed

documents might have said or if they were in any way related to Watergate.

Although the Senate Watergate hearings produced extensive testimony about the destruction of documents related to the Watergate break-in and Nixon campaign contributions, no testimony was developed suggesting that any material from the President or Haldeman was destroyed at any time.

Sources close to the Sen-

Destroyed

San Francisco Chronicle 13
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ate Committee's investigation said yesterday that they were unaware of the existence of the Mitchell notes.

Similarly, other sources said the Watergate special prosecutor's office had not learned of the Mitchell notes.

Mitchell, Haldeman and four other former presidential aides were indicted in the Watergate coverup last March 1 by the same grand jury that named President Nixon as an unindicted co-

conspirator in the case.

In addition to declaring his innocence in the coverup, Mr. Nixon has denied any foreknowledge of the Watergate bugging operation.

Informed by the Washington Post of the existence of the notes, Mitchell's attorney, William G. Hundley, discussed the matter with Mitchell and then said: "He doesn't have any recollection of putting this down (on paper)."

Asked whether Mitchell remembered destroying documents from Haldeman or Mr. Nixon, Hundley added: "He has no recollection of it one way or another."

Other sources familiar with Mitchell's handwriting said that the copy of notes are written in the former attorney general's hand.

During his testimony before the Senate Watergate committee, Mitchell was asked by Senator Lowell Weicker whether he had ever suggested "that any documents be destroyed."