

Mitchell's Jury Motion

Washington

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, arguing that prospective jurors could not become any more prejudiced against him than they already are, asked yesterday that the Watergate coverup jury not be sealed away during the forthcoming trial.

He offered to make no further complaints about prejudicial publicity unless prosecutors take "legal action" during the trial that "may

have a direct impact" on the outcome of the case — apparently referring to the possibility that former President Nixon may be indicted.

In a brief motion filed by his lawyers, Mitchell asked U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica to withdraw his order that jurors chosen to hear the coverup case be sequestered throughout the trial.

Sirica has directed that the jurors and their alternates be kept under guard of federal marshals, forbidden

to read or hear anything about Watergate, until the trial has ended and they reach a verdict.

The trial, due to start September 30, is expected to last at least three months.

Associated Press

Frigate Sale

Washington

Australia and the United States have signed an agreement for the purchase of two American patrol frigates.

Reuters