

Martha Keeps On Talking

By Vera Glaser

Washington

Martha Mitchell is working with a television producer to develop her own syndicated show.

They plan to call it "The World of Martha Mitchell" and feature Martha's picture holding a giant globe — in her mouth.

Last week the bouncy, estranged wife of former Attorney General John Mitchell was in the Virgin Islands mulling over the project. She stayed at the plush "Gentle Winds" resort community on St. Croix, where she was the house guest of manager Keith King.

"The U.S. government isn't doing enough for the islands, and I intend to talk about it," Martha said, adding that she had taped TV material designed to help the islands regain their prosperity.

Tourism has been virtually wiped out on St. Croix following a series of murders in 1972. Last month, heavy rains and floods caused widespread damage and the islands were declared a major disaster area.

Martha looks youthful, glowing and slimmer than she was as a Cabinet wife. She told her hosts that she expects Mitchell to get a five-to-ten year prison sentence for his role in the Watergate scandal.

Although she has been awarded \$1000 a week subsistence from her former



Martha Mitchell is developing her own syndicated television show

husband, Martha claims she currently lives on fees from her public appearances.

Her representative tried recently to get a million-dollar advance for a book Martha has been writing. Western Islands, the publishing affiliate of the John Birch Society, was approached but rejected the proposition.

Martha said she plans to spend Christmas in Washington with friends. As her host on St. Croix, King de-

scribed Martha as "very demanding. She wanted breakfast in bed."

King's wife, Lee, prepared breakfast and by the time

Martha left, Lee was "a basket case," according to her husband.

However, King credited Martha with inventing "the best peach daiquiri I have ever had. We sat at the bar one night and she sent it back 19 times until they got it the way she wanted it."

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The most offbeat bicentennial project to surface so far is a plan to build three new bathrooms at Blair House, the official residence for visiting heads of state.

The bathroom will be designed by House Beautiful magazine, with fixtures donated by the Kohler Company of Wisconsin and all materials provided by suppliers without cost to the taxpayers.

If plans are approved and completed in time, the bathrooms will be installed by August and touted in the magazine for the 1976 bicentennial celebration.

Blair House has about twenty bathrooms, all antiquated, according to a Koh-

ler spokesman. Scheduled for renovation are the "King's Bathroom" on the second floor and the bathroom of an adjoining suite, as well as the one in what is known as the "Margaret Truman suite" on the third floor.

The small size of the rooms creates a problem. Plans are to make them colorful but traditional.

In late 1972 or early 1973, Kohler offered to remodel President Nixon's bathroom, but was rejected by aides Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

"They gave us this moralistic talk about not wanting to exploit the White House or favor one industry over another," the spokesman said. "So we initiated the idea for Blair House."

The bathroom plans will require the approval of the State Department's Office of Protocol, which operates the nation's official guest house.