

# Ailing Martha Is Keeping Hopes Up

## Washington

Martha Mitchell, suffering from a rare malignant blood disease, says she still seeks "happiness and peace for myself as well as others."

Mrs. Mitchell, 57, said in a telephone interview from her bed at Northern Virginia Doctors Hospital that she keeps her "hope and joy in living."

She entered the hospital with a pain in her leg about a month ago. X-rays disclosed two broken ribs and fractures of two vertebrae in her neck, indicating bone brittleness.

Extensive blood and bone marrow tests brought a diagnosis of a form of myeloma, which her hematologist (blood specialist), Dr. Robert Dobrzynski, said "is manageable, but is in a fairly advanced stage."

Mrs. Mitchell said the illness "hit so spontaneously that I didn't know what happened."

Dobrzynski said myeloma produces a proliferation of plasma cells which attack the calcium in the bones.

Mrs. Mitchell's personal physician, Dr. Thomas O'Brien, said she might be discharged from the hospital this weekend, but "will continue to undergo chemotherapy treatment."

Mrs. Mitchell has been estranged from her husband, former Attorney General John Mitchell, since September, 1973, when the Watergate scandal heated up.

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