

Martha Mitchell

Sick and Broke

New York

Martha Mitchell was described by her lawyer as "desperately ill, without funds and without friends" during a hearing yesterday on her claim she is owed \$36,000 in back alimony.

"She owes nearly \$10,000 on her cooperative apartment and large bills to Consolidated Edison, which has threatened to turn off her electricity," Mrs. Mitchell's lawyer, William C. Herman, told state Supreme Court Justice Manuel Gomez.

Mrs. Mitchell returned last Friday to a 14-room apartment on Fifth ave. after treatment at a hospital for special surgery resulting from a broken arm. She had been treated earlier this year at another hospital for a painful bone cancer.

"But she is still desperately ill. She owes for an ambulance and a wheelchair, and she has grocery bills," Herman declared as he waved a stack of bills in his hand.

Herman told the court that her husband, former Attorney General John Mitchell, does not deny the arrears. He said that since September Mitchell has not paid his estranged wife the \$1000-a-week temporary alimony awarded to Mrs. Mitchell pending her suit for separation.

According to the lawyer, Mitchell received a \$50,000 advance on a book he is writing about Watergate. Mitchell has appealed a conviction for obstruction of justice, conspiracy to obstruct justice and making false statements in connection with the Watergate scandal.

Mitchell's lawyer, Margaret Shaw, told the court her client has no money. "He is rooming on borrowed funds," she said, while admitting that Mitchell had received the advance.

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