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MARTHA MITCHELL AS SHE LOOKED LAST YEAR
A colorful figure of the Nixon period

Martha Mitchell Dies At 57 -- Cancer Victim

New York

Martha Mitchell, one of Washington's most colorful personalities during the Nixon administration, died yesterday of a rare form of cancer.

Mrs. Mitchell, 57, who once refused to bow to Queen Elizabeth, asked a newspaper to "crucify" a senator and hit a reporter on the head, died at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Cancer Center of cancer of the bone marrow.

She had added piquance to the political world with her late-night telephone calls to the press and her shrill, shoot-from-the-hip opinions on everything from communism to dirty politics.

Mrs. Mitchell, the estranged wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, was admitted to the cancer center Sunday for treatment of massive internal bleeding,

a complication of the cancer, multiple myeloma.

She was unconscious when she died in the intensive care unit. A hospital spokesman said her husband and children were notified of her condition, but were not with her.

Dr. Klaus Mayer, her physician, said the internal bleeding stemmed from "four stomach ulcers, probably caused by stress, pneumonia and the myeloma."

He said Mrs. Mitchell "really wanted to live. She was a very brave woman. She always tried to be pleasant and was reasonably pleasant, although she was in a great deal of pain."

She was struck by the disease about a year and a half ago and knew it was not curable, Mayer said, "but we were both hopeful of remission with treatment."

On Saturday, he said, Mrs. Mitchell was "alert, chipper and conversant," but she took a sudden and surprising turn for the worse. He said her heart stopped beating at the hospital, but was restarted immediately.

Asked if he requested Mitchell to come to the hospital, Mayer said: "I didn't ask and he didn't offer."

The Mitchells were separated in 1973. Mrs. Mitchell is survived by a son, Jay Jennings, 28, a researcher for a U.S. Senate subcommittee, and a daughter, Marty, 15, who attends a private school in Connecticut.

The funeral and burial will be Thursday morning in Pine Bluff, Ark., where Mrs. Mitchell was born.

Recently filed court papers seeking \$36,000 in back alimony from Mitchell described Mrs. Mitchell as "desperately ill, without funds and without friends." Her attorney said last week she was \$10,000 in arrears on her elegant Fifth avenue apartment and the

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MARTHA MITCHELL

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utility company had threatened to turn off her electricity.

Mitchell, who also was described as broke, was ordered to pay.

The irrepressible Mrs. Mitchell, with her spike heels and her red hair piled high, provided with her outspoken remarks some of the few amusing notes in the somber social climate set by Richard M. Nixon during his years in the White House.

Ironically, it was Mr. Nixon who first encouraged her public barbs.

In 1969, at the behest of the White House, she appeared in a television interview and likened anti-war demonstrators to "liberal Communist revolutionaries."

After that, she was besieged for interviews and became a national celebrity. She was often derided behind her back by the powerful, but she could not be ignored for such remarks as saying that the Senator J. William Fulbright "should be crucified" for his anti-war politics and "the Supreme Court should be abolished."

In one famous call in June, 1972, she accused a security guard of manhandling and drugging her and holding her prisoner at a villa in Newport Beach, near Mr. Nixon's California coast home, to keep her from speaking out on Watergate.

At Mrs. Mitchell's insistence, her husband resigned from President Nixon's re-election committee in June, 1972 as the Watergate scandals brewed.

But later, when he was sentenced for obstruction of justice and conspiracy for his activities in the Watergate cover-up, he said bitterly: "It could have been a hell

of a lot worse. They could have sentenced me to spend the rest of my life with Martha Mitchell."

In May, 1973, she tracked a reporter to a small hotel in Madison, Wis., and minced no words. "Nixon should resign," she said. "He has lost his credibility in the country and in the Republican Party. I think he has let the country down."

She was the first public figure to call for the President's resignation.

After Mitchell's resignation, Marty left their home with her father and refused to see her mother. The subject of her daughter was so painful to Mrs. Mitchell that she would not discuss it.

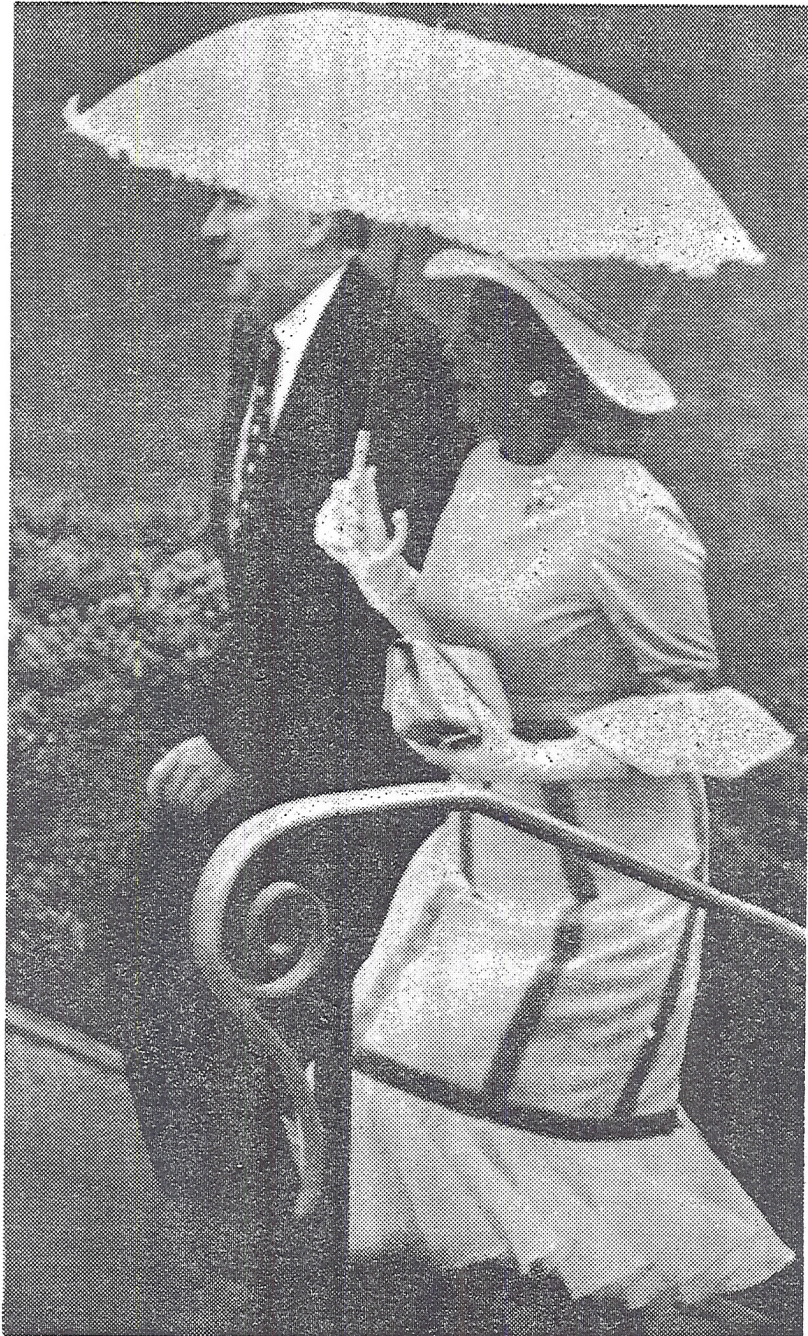
Once, on a trip to England, Mrs. Mitchell refused to bow to Queen Elizabeth, saying, "I felt an American citizen should not bow to foreign monarchs."

Mrs. Mitchell was born Sept. 2, 1918, in Pine Bluff, Ark. Her father was a cotton broker and her mother was a speech teacher. She was graduated from the University of Miami, taught school in Mobile, Ala., and quit, saying: "I despised it."

She was married for 11 months to Clyde Jennings, a traveling salesman. They were divorced after the birth of their son.

Martha and John Mitchell were married in 1957 when he was a successful bond lawyer, making \$250,000 a year in New York. The woman whose sharp tongue and telephone would later be known to millions of Americans was content in those days to be a country club matron.

After Mrs. Mitchell left Washington, her popularity waned and the telephone calls to the press



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JOHN AND MARTHA MITCHELL AT THE WHITE HOUSE
They arrived for the 1971 wedding of Tricia Nixon

were infrequent. She once struck a reporter over the head at her Manhattan apartment, saying "you

have no right to be here, infringing on my privacy."

A.P. & U.P.