

NYTimes JUN 23 1977
**Mitchell Enters
Alabama Camp
To Serve Term**

By United Press International

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 22—John N. Mitchell, the first former United States Attorney General to go to prison, arrived here aboard a private jet today and rode to jail in a blue Cadillac to begin his sentence for Watergate crimes.

"It's nice to be back in Alabama; it's a nice day in Alabama," Mr. Mitchell, 63 years old, said as he stepped from the car and hurried the 15 feet to the office door of the prison camp at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Mr. Mitchell, along with John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman, was sentenced to 30 months to eight years for conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury in the Watergate cover-up.

Mr. Haldeman, President Nixon's former chief of staff, surrendered at a prison camp in California yesterday to begin serving his term, and Mr. Ehrlichman, Mr. Nixon's former domestic chief, voluntarily turned himself in last October while appeals in the case were still pending.

About 40 of the 290 inmates clustered near the entrance to watch Mr. Mitchell arrive at the prison where his picture once hung in a place of honor. Most of the other inmates were working on the hot muggy day.

Mr. Mitchell's Washington lawyer, Plato

Continued on Page 39, Column 4

Mitchell Enters Camp in Alabama To Begin Serving Watergate Term

Continued From Page A1

Cacheris, accompanied him.

Mr. Mitchell was assigned a lower bunk in one of the seven air-conditioned dormitories. He will share the dormitory with more than 40 other inmates.

The surrender of Mr. Mitchell at 11:25 A.M. came five years and five days after five burglars were captured inside the Democratic National Committee's offices in the Watergate complex in Washington. He was the 25th person to be sent to jail in the scandal.

Of the major Watergate figures, only former President Richard M. Nixon, who was pardoned, has escaped prison.

Dressed in a green business suit, Mr. Mitchell arrived in Montgomery aboard a red and white twin-engine Falcon jet, operated by Executive Airfleet, a charter company of Teterboro, N.J. He was picked up at the airport in a Cadillac belonging to a deputy United States marshal.

United States Attorney Ira Dement said that transportation was not normally provided for prisoners, but was made available in Mr. Mitchell's case "as a matter of courtesy to a former Attorney General."

Request From Lawyer

Mr. Dement said that Mr. Mitchell's lawyer "called me last week and asked me to help coordinate the orderly transfer of Mr. Mitchell. I arranged for the U.S. marshal to meet him and transport him to the federal prison," he said.

James Lunsford, the marshal who served as the driver for Mr. Mitchell, said he was acting on a "personal basis" because Mr. Mitchell was an old friend.

Mr. Lunsford said that during the ride they "exchanged personal greetings and discussed the times we had been together at marshals' conferences."

"He seemed cheerful," Mr. Lunsford said. "He said he was pleased to announce that his health is good—that he has come through all this ordeal in a good state of health."

Upon his arrival at the prison camp, Mr. Mitchell met briefly with the warden, Robert W. Grunski, and was informed that newsmen had requested interviews with him. He refused and was then briefed on prison procedures.

After the meeting with Mr. Grunski, Mr. Mitchell was taken to another building where he was fingerprinted, photographed and issued brown prison clothing.

Mitchell's New Home

Special to The New York Times

MONTGOMERY, June 22—The Federal prison camp where Mr. Mitchell began serving his prison term today is bordered on one side by the Alabama River, where inmates often pass their time by fishing or sunning, and on the other side

by a 54-hole golf course for officers assigned to Maxwell Air Force Base.

The facility, called simply the Federal Prison Camp, is situated on the air base and will probably be the former Attorney General's home for the next 30 months under his sentence of two-and-a-half to eight years for obstruction of justice. It is the same facility where two other Watergate figures, Charles W. Colson and Frederick C. LaRue, served terms earlier.

The camp is a minimum security institution without even a fence, except for one barrier designed to keep horseback riders from inadvertently straying onto the pine-shaded, 25-acre prison grounds.

Mr. Mitchell's fellow inmates will consist of 290 convicts, with drug-related offenses responsible for some 18 percent of these being here. The median age of the inmate is 28, although some are 70 or above.

Warden There Five Years

The warden is Robert W. Grunski, 53, who has been with the Federal Bureau of Prisons for 20 years, the last five at Maxwell.

Mr. Mitchell will be assigned a cot in one of six barracks-type stucco buildings that were air-conditioned for the first time about two months ago. The dormitories are divided into cubicles that are shared by two or three inmates. The more fortunate prisoners obtain one of a half-dozen or so private stalls—the assignment being made on the basis of seniority.

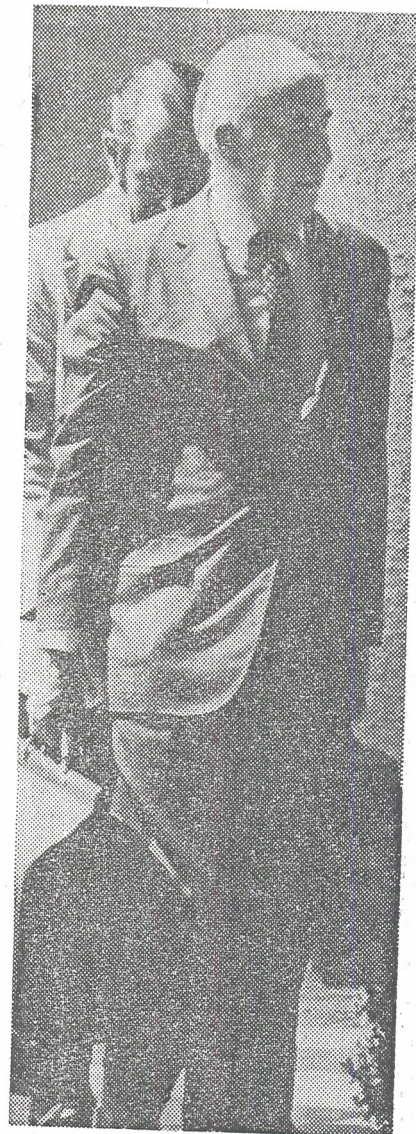
The inmates include a great many white-collar criminals, including a sprinkling of doctors and lawyers convicted of income tax violations or commercial frauds. A number of Alabama state legislators and other officials have served at the camp, from which one can get a picturesque view of the state's capitol building.

Mr. Mitchell's day will begin with a get-up call on the camp intercom system at 6 A.M. He will eat breakfast with companions of his own choice at tables for four in a cafeteria-style dining hall that has all the appearances of a college campus student union eating area.

Grits and Greens to Eat

Since most of the inmates come from the Southeast, the menu includes items a Wall Street lawyer might find unfamiliar—grits, biscuits, collard greens and cornbread, as well as Southern fried chicken. But the fare is varied and abundant, with dessert always served at the noon and evening meals.

The work day begins at 7:30 A.M., with about half the inmates assigned to menial jobs on the Air Force base. Although Mr. Mitchell's work assignment has not yet been decided, Mr. Grunski said that the former assistant to President Nixon would not be sent out of the prison compound because he might be the object



United Press International
John N. Mitchell being taken to a dormitory at prison in Alabama.

of gawking and harassment by "celebrity seekers."

Whatever work assignment Mr. Mitchell receives, it will be clerical. "I'm not going to have any 63-year-old man pushing a lawn mower in this heat," said Mr. Grunski.

After a day's work, Mr. Mitchell will be allowed free time in the prison compound to work in the hobby shop, read, play pool or table tennis, or watch television until the stations sign off at night.

Mr. Mitchell will be allowed visitors on Sundays in semi-private areas—either the all-purpose prison auditorium, or at picnic tables outside under the pines. "You should see the parking lot on visiting days," Mr. Grunski chuckled. "There are lots of Cadillacs and Continentals—but always a few pick-up trucks with Tennessee tags."

GIVING BEGETS JOY
AID FRESH AIR FUND