

Mitchell In Hospital For Surgery

San Francisco Chronicle 7
★ Mon., Jan. 23, 1978

Washington

— Former Attorney General John Mitchell entered Georgetown University Hospital yesterday for surgery after telling a Washington Newspaper he and Richard Nixon are still friends.

Mitchell was to undergo an operation today by cardiovascular surgeon Charles Hufnagel for an aneurysm — ballooning of an artery caused by weakening of the vessel wall.

The surgery will be followed about two months later by an operation on a painful hip joint, which Mitchell said in an interview in Sunday's Washington Star is "frozen in the socket."

Mitchell also told the newspaper that former President "Richard Nixon and I are friends.

"We rejected the notion that he was made a scapegoat by Nixon.

"If you were up on all the technicalities on those things and the nuances involving the people around him you would understand," he said.

Mitchell, 64, has been in and out of the hospital since he was released from the federal minimum security unit at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., after Christmas for treatment. He will be eligible for parole in June from a one-to-four-year jail sentence for his role in the Watergate coverup.

Mitchell said he probably will live in Washington after his prison term is over, because his 17-year-old daughter, Marty, now an honor

student at Sacred Heart Academy in Greenwich, Conn., plans to attend Georgetown University here and study law.

United Press