



Martha's Writing Leans to Right

MARTHA MITCHELL

Book problems

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Washington

Martha Mitchell is discussing her forthcoming tattle-tale book on Washington with the publishing arm of the John Birch Society.

Mrs. Mitchell's writer and friend, Winzola McLendon, met recently with a representative of Western Islands, publisher of right-wing works, including the writings of the society's founder, Robert Welch.

Western Islands' "Teddy Bafe," a blast at Senator Edward Kennedy's role at Chappaquiddick, is riding high on best-seller lists.

The Mitchell-McLendon team reportedly has been under contract to another publisher, but Western Islands said it was given the impression that the agreement was only "verbal."

But problems appear to have slowed the production of Martha's manuscript. For one thing, the volatile estranged wife of former Attorney General and Watergate defendant John Mitchell is not the easiest person to work with.

For another, her current publisher reportedly wants rigid editorial control over the material, which could be explosive. As a result, Martha's book is not expected to be ready before spring and by then, Watergate may have lost its hold on the public's interest.

There is also the worry that the book's contents could be revealed prematurely by Martha's tendency to sound off and make headlines.