

## MITCHELL ISSUES PLEA ON F.B.I. FILES

Asks Press Not to Publish  
Data on Stolen Papers

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 23—

Attorney General John N. Mitchell issued an urgent plea to the press today not to publish information from files stolen earlier this month from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's office in Media, Pa.

In a statement issued tonight, Mr. Mitchell said that copies of the stolen records had apparently been circulated to some members of Congress and the press.

"Disclosure of the information could endanger the lives or cause other serious harm to persons engaged in investigative activities on behalf of the United States," he said.

He added that disclosure of national defense information that might be contained in the papers "could endanger the United States and give aid to foreign governments whose interests might be inimical to those of the United States."

Over the weekend a group that called itself the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the F.B.I. sent F.B.I. documents relating primarily to antiwar and black militant groups to Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, and Representative Parren J. Mitchell, Democrat of Maryland.

### Aim Is Exposure

The group said that the documents had been stolen from the F.B.I. and that copies would be sent to other persons in an effort to expose what was said to be pervasive surveillance of

militant groups by the agency.

John W. Hushen, director of information for the Justice Department, said tonight that The Washington Post had copies of the documents and there had been talks between its national editor, Ben Bagdikian, and Justice Department officials. Post editors were conferring on the issue tonight.

Senator McGovern and Representative Mitchell returned the documents to the F.B.I. Mitchell said tonight that the Justice Department was analyzing them to determine if any of them contained information that could disclose informants' identities or aid foreign powers.

Pending the "speedy completion" of that review, he said, "the department urgently requests that those who have received copies of the material not further circulate or publish it."

Mr. Hushen said there was concern that other newspapers might get copies.

### Charges Illegal Acts

Mr. Mitchell said in a speech in Pittsburgh last night that the files showed that Federal agents were engaged in illegal surveillance and infiltration of groups and individuals without evidence of wrongdoing.

The Negro Congressman told a group of black policemen that the burglary was a crime and

should be dealt with as such. He added that "the investigation and surveillance of individuals, peace groups and black student groups," as indicated by the files, was also criminal.