

Scott Assails ITT Probe As Democratic 'Jackassery'

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
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Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) went after the Democratic investigators in the ITT-Kleindienst affair yesterday to accuse them of "a frantic exercise in continuing irrelevancy, non-germaneness and hearsay evidence pursued to the fourth degree."

In some of the most colorful language heard in the Nixon White House, Scott also said that Democrats are indulging in a "form of jackassery" and that ITT has long since "climbed past its perihelion."

(Webster defines "perihelion" as the "periastron in the solar system," or the point at which a celestial body passes nearest the sun.)

Long known for his sharp tongue, Scott exhibited it anew after a leadership meeting at the White House, where

he insisted that the ITT matter was never discussed.

Scott said he had no objections to an investigation into ITT or any other conglomerate, but he asked "why hold up Mr. Kleindienst as hostage to the political prejudices of Larry O'Brien's four horsemen?" O'Brien is chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Declaring that there has never been any evidence to indicate that acting Attorney General Richard Kleindienst had any connection with ITT's contributions for the GOP convention in San Diego, Scott said it was time for Congress to get on with its legislative business and the vote to confirm Kleindienst as attorney general.

"Most of the requests of the President have been deferred by the congressional majority, which is spinning its wheels

and busily conducting a number of footless and quasi-irrelevant investigations for the purpose of concealing their real inactivity on the matters which affect the people of this country," the Senator said.

He conceded that both political parties at this time of year sometimes think of politics and that he himself sometimes does, but he said he is more "candid" this year because he is not running.

"It is a bad time to get good legislation," he commented. "There is only about three months before the Democrats meet in apologia at Miami Beach to explain, in the vicinity of Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey, their reasons for offering rival attractions."

On Capitol Hill, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) said enough unanswered questions involving Kleindienst remained to warrant continued hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Another session is scheduled today with ITT president Harold Geneen as the witness.

Committee members Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and John Tunney (D-Calif.) also said they would press on with the inquiry.

But Scott said he and Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) would move to end the investigation after the Senate returns next Tuesday from its Easter recess.

It is time to wind up the Judiciary investigation, Scott argued, because the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "is slaverling to get into the act and drooling at all corners of its collective mouth, and they want front and center stage."

"I think Judiciary owes them that opportunity to perform."

Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) of the Foreign Relations Committee has announced that the committee will investigate the role of ITT and other large companies in foreign policy.



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Rep. Ford and Sen. Scott, who commented on ITT affair after White House session.