

Kleindienst Tells of Campaign

By David C. Berliner

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NEW YORK, Nov. 16—The deputy attorney general of the United States testified here today that he had received an offer of a \$100,000 "campaign contribution" to help quash an impending indictment, but that he did not at the time consider it a bribe.

Richard G. Kleindienst said at the federal bribery-conspi-

racy trial of Robert T. Carson, that he waited a week before reporting the incident, doing so after learning that the FBI was about to bug Carson's office in the New Senate Office Building.

The testimony came during the fourth day in the trial of Carson, 65, suspended administrative assistant to Sen. Hiram L. Fong, (R-Hawaii). The former Hawaiian Republican

state chairman is charged with conspiracy bribery and perjury by the government, which contends he agreed to fix criminal securities indictments and had gone to Kleindienst in an attempt to elicit his help.

Late today the prosecution rested its case.

A strong point in the government's argument had been

its allegation that Carson told Kleindienst in late 1970 that a \$50-100,000 contribution to the Nixon re-election campaign would be made if he could do something about the impending indictments.

Testifying under cross-examination that he did not consider the offer a bribe at the time it was made, Kleindienst said, under re-direct that he

Cash Offer at Trial

did change his mind a week later.

"Were you serious about the answer" Brill asked, picking up the questioning again.

"Well," Kleindienst replied quickly, "I'm serious about it but I'd like to explain it." A moment later, however, he was dismissed as a witness.

Shortly before resting the government's case this afternoon, assistant U.S. Attorney

Joseph Jaffe read portions of a grand jury transcript made last January during which Carson testified he would not identify the names, and in one case a photograph, of persons who later were indicted with him or revealed to have been working for the FBI as undercover agents.

Two other men, Joseph Bald and Edward Adams, were indicted with Carson in connec-

tion with the purported payoff scheme. The government is claiming that a payoff as high as \$1 million was to have gone to the senatorial aide if he could help Bald and another man escape prosecution.

Both Bald and Adams pleaded guilty last week to the conspiracy charges and are scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 28.

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