

Robert Byrd to Oppose Kleindienst

By Spencer Rich

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In a surprise announcement, Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D., W. Va.) said yesterday that he will vote against the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General because too many "important questions remain unanswered" on Kleindienst's role in the ITT merger case and other matters.

The Senate will vote today on the nomination. Despite the loss of Byrd, administration supporters believe they have the votes for confirmation of Kleindienst by a margin of 2 to 1 or better.

Byrd had voted in the Judiciary Committee to approve the nomination, but had reserved the right to oppose it on the floor.

Yesterday, he told the Sen-

ate he is disturbed by contradictions in congressional testimony on the ITT case, lack of candor of witnesses, the "shredding" incident—in which ITT officials reportedly destroyed documents for fear they would fall into the hands of the Senate—and a host of other questions involved in the Justice Department's decision to settle the ITT case instead of carrying the anti-trust prosecution through the Supreme Court.

"I cannot say that he is unfit or unworthy or incapable," Byrd said of Kleindienst, but "important questions remain unanswered and . . . uneasy doubts remain which cannot be explained away." He said, however, that he sees no point in sending the nomination back for new hearings in view of the difficulty of ascer-

taining the truth during earlier Judiciary Committee hearings.

In last-minute speeches, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D., Mass.) and Quentin N. Burdick (D., N.D.) again questioned the nomination. Both had opposed it in committee and favor sending it back for further hearings.

Meanwhile, Republican National Chairman Sen. Bob Dole (R., Kans.) issued a statement urging confirmation of Kleindienst. Dole said the second series of hearings on Kleindienst and the ITT case had been converted into "a burlesque which appeared more intent on monopolizing time on the network newscasts and space in The Washington Post than serving any legitimate senatorial interest." He

called Kleindienst a "superbly qualified" man who was the victim of "endless smear and insinuation" and referred to Washington Post editorials as "a broken record playing in an empty room."

Princeton Confers Degree on Goheen

PRINCETON, N.J., June 7 (AP)—Dr. Robert E. Goheen, the retiring president of Princeton University, was surprised Tuesday with an honorary doctor of laws degree at Princeton's 225th commencement.

Goheen received a prolonged, standing ovation from the audience of 4,000, including more than 1,400 students receiving bachelor and advanced degrees.