

Kleindienst Disputes Turner, Says He Asked Resignation

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner was bluntly asked to resign as chief of the U.S. marshals after the Justice Department discovered he would be a principal figure in a Senate investigation of irregularities in non-commissioned officers' clubs.

That version, supplied yesterday by Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, conflicts sharply with Turner's own testimony that his voluntarily resignation was reluctantly accepted at the

Justice Department last month.

Kleindienst recalled that Turner originally had told him his part in the Senate investigation would be of little consequence and that his resignation would not be appropriate.

Kleindienst's explanation was made public yesterday in a letter to Sen. Edward J. Gurney (R-Fla.) as Turner — once the Army's top policeman — ended a long day of defensive and acrimonious testimony before a Senate subcommittee.

It ended with Chairman Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.) announcing that he will ask the Justice Department to investigate apparent perjury in the conflicting testimony over Turner's obtaining guns from police departments and selling some of them for personal profit.

Chiefs-of the Chicago and Kansas City police departments have sworn they gave Turner confiscated guns at his request for use in an Army museum or at public lectures.

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But Turner yesterday stuck to his claim that the police chiefs knew all along he wanted them for his personal use. He has admitted selling some of the weapons to a gun dealer and pocketing the profits.

"Perjury has been committed at these hearings," Ribicoff declared. He said transcripts of the conflicting testimony would go to the Justice Department.

Today the subcommittee is scheduled to hear testimony from four sergeants its investigators have said were involved in irregularities at the non-commissioned officers' clubs in Germany, Ft. Benning, Ga., and in Vietnam.

Turner has been accused of "whitewashing" the Army's own investigations of the Ft. Benning case involving inflated liquor prices, kickbacks to suppliers and other items.

Turner was Army provost marshal, the top police officer, at the time of the Ft. Benning investigations and has acknowledged that he ordered the name of Sgt. Maj. William D. Wooldridge deleted from the record of that probe.

Yesterday, Turner told the



By Bob Burchette—The Washington Post

GEN. CARL TURNER
... offers differing version

subcommittee that he did so because he feared that a "witch hunt" of unsubstantiated charges against Wooldridge would ruin the sergeant major's reputation throughout the Army.

The conflicting versions of Turner's resignation as chief U.S. marshal came to light after the hearing when Gurney asked permission to put in the record an exchange of cor-

respondence with Kleindienst. Turner had been appointed chief marshal in the Nixon administration early this year. He left last month for what the Justice Department then said were "personal reasons."

Gurney had questioned Turner on Oct. 7 about his reasons for leaving the post. The Senator recalled that Turner had testified he offered to resign because he might be called as a witness in the Army clubs investigation. He also said that Kleindienst had some reluctance in accepting the resignation.

In reply to Gurney, Kleindienst said he appreciated the opportunity "to correct the record in this regard."

Kleindienst said he told Turner in an initial interview that "if he would be involved in scandal or malfeasance" at the investigation his resignation would be necessary.

In that interview, Kleindienst wrote, "General Turner indicated to me that he did not regard the matter of any consequence and that he did not believe it appropriate for him to resign."

After examining some documents from the Defense Department, however, Kleindienst became convinced that

Turner "would be personally involved in the controversy. Immediately thereafter, I asked General Turner to visit my office, informed him of that fact, and asked for his resignation."

The Deputy Attorney General emphasized, however, that he has not passed judgment on Turner's conduct and recalled that the retired general had passed a full FBI field check before being appointed chief marshal.

Chemical Tank Car Explodes in Texas

TROUP, Tex., Oct. 22 (UPI)

—A chemical-carrying tank car exploded near Troup Tuesday, shattering windows throughout the town, but no serious injuries were reported. Classes were canceled today in the local high school because of broken windows and a damaged ceiling caused by the blast. There was no danger of another explosion.

Authorities said the blast occurred after chemicals used in the manufacture of antifreeze caught fire in the tank car and burned for 60 hours, erupting finally into a gigantic mushroom-shaped ball of fire.