

INCORPORATED  
No. 151  
508  
DAILY WORLD

New York, Thursday, February 17, 1972

Daily except Sun., Mon. and major holidays

DID KLEINDIENST JEST  
ON STALLING 70 POLLS?

By **TIM WHEELER**  
**WASHINGTON, Feb. 16**  
— Did Richard G. Kleindienst, President Nixon's new nominee for U.S. Attorney General, order a "legal analysis" by a Justice Department official of the possibility of "postponing U.S. Congressional elections?"

If Kleindienst himself can be believed, he did just that, according to a profile which appeared this morning in the Baltimore Sun.

The profile of Kleindienst, former aide to Barry Goldwater, was written by Walter R. Gordon, of the Sun's Washington Bureau. Gordon wrote, "At a cocktail party not long ago, Mr. Kleindienst embarked on a long anecdote about jokingly asking William H. Rehn-

quist, then an Assistant Attorney General and now a Supreme Court Justice, to do a legal analysis of the possibility of postponing the 1970 Congressional elections.

"Mr. Mitchell (Attorney General John Mitchell), who was standing beside Mr. Kleindienst, abruptly told him he had better stop talking, and he did."

#### Was an eyewitness

Gordon told the Daily World today he eyewitnessed the incident at a cocktail party a year ago last December. He said he heard Kleindienst's remark and Mitchell's warning.

"Since it was a cocktail party, I didn't take verbatim notes," Gordon said. "I don't know any more about it than what I wrote there. This whole thing was being described as a joke."

Kleindienst, he surmised, was evidently referring to an exchange he had had with Rehnquist in the early months of the Nixon Administration, since it was the 1970 elections that were to be postponed.

#### Facts confirmed

The Justice Department today hastened to scotch the story, but in the process confirmed the circumstance of the incident.

Powell Moore, deputy director for public information of the Justice Department, told the Daily World, "I have an idea I know what cocktail party they (the Sun) had in mind. We had a cocktail party at Christmas time in the public information office.

"If Mr. Kleindienst made a remark like that, it was in total jest and any one who took it seriously would be badly mistaken. Nobody

Continued on page 3