

Special Prosecutor Concentrates On ITT

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox has beefed up his investigation of the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. case which will be among the first orders of business for the new Watergate grand jury when it convenes on Monday.

A spokesman for the prosecutor's office confirmed Wednesday that Richard J. Davis, head of Cox's investigation of political espionage and dirty tricks in the 1972 campaign, has shifted temporarily

to the probe of the administration's handling of the ITT antitrust settlement.

He also confirmed that the White House has not yet responded to Cox's request for an ITT file the prosecutor described as important evidence.

At a news conference July 27, Cox called the file of the utmost importance and said his request for it had been pending for some time without "a favorable answer or a negative."

Five days later, at the Senate Watergate committee hearings, chief counsel Samuel Dash released a March 30, 1972, White House memorandum about ITT which Dash said indicated former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell had committed an apparent act of perjury.

The memo, written by Charles W. Colson, then a White House special counsel to then presidential chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, said Mitchell knew about a \$400,000 ITT pledge to help underwrite the 1972 Republican National Convention before three antitrust suits against the company were settled.

Mitchell testified under oath at Senate hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be his successor as attorney general that he knew nothing of the \$400,000 pledge before the suits were settled.

Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson announced on June 8, shortly after Cox became special prosecutor, that he had given Cox the Justice Department files on the ITT and asked him to take over the investigation.