

Richardson Said Prosecutors Held Important Secret ITT Memoranda

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson said before he resigned that special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox had copies of five secret memoranda a White House aide said would "directly involve the President" in the ITT scandal.

The documents are among those described in a March 30, 1972 memo from then-special presidential counsel Charles W. Colson to then-White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman.

The White House, meanwhile, acknowledged that President Nixon intervened in the Justice

Department's handing of an antitrust suit against the giant conglomerate, saying he "had every right" to do so. And Cox, who was fired by Nixon, acknowledged he may have been the indirect source of the news leak that brought the President's involvement in the case to light.

Four members of the Senate Judiciary Committee had asked Richardson in August for a status report on a number of documents, including those described in the Colson memo.

In his reply Sept. 6, Richardson said, "There are five docu-

ments mentioned in the Colson memorandum which may have been in the Department of Justice." Searches of the department's files turned up two of them, Richardson said, and they were turned over to the special prosecutor's office.

"The other three documents," he said, "were not discovered in the department, either in connection with the (Richard G.) Kleindienst confirmation hearings or the subsequent perjury investigation.

"I am informed by the special prosecutor's office, however, that he now has copies of

all three documents."

The Colson memo was written to convince Haldeman that Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general should be withdrawn. Colson said there was a serious risk that the Senate confirmation hearings would unearth documentary evidence of White House intervention in the Justice Department's antitrust suit against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp., which pledged \$400,000 to help the city of San Diego underwrite the Republican National Convention.

The five documents mentioned by Richardson are among the most important cited by Colson. The former White House lawyer said they would show: that former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell had been

told of "the \$400,000 arrangement with ITT" before the antitrust case was settled; that presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman had told Mitchell of an "understanding" with ITT President Harold S. Gennen in a memo complaining about the chief of the antitrust division's actions; and that the President

and Mitchell had discussed the " 'agreed upon ends' in the resolution of the ITT case."

Colson said the documents would contradict sworn testimony Mitchell had given before the Senate Judiciary Committee and "more importantly directly involve the President."