

New Blow Aimed at Mitchell

Reinecke Tells Of ITT Offer

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WASHINGTON—John N. Mitchell and Richard G. Kleindienst were accused anew today of lying when they said they did not know an International Telephone and Telegraph subsidiary had offered to help pay for the GOP national convention prior to settlement of a landmark government antitrust case against the company.

In Sacramento Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke said he told Mitchell last summer about the Sheraton Corp.'s offer to underwrite convention expenses. At that time, he said, the offer was \$200,000.

Sheraton is an ITT subsidiary.

"Mitchell was, you might say, the political arm of the administration. It was widely known then it was he who was making the political decisions," Reinecke said.

Reinecke's statement supported that of columnist Jack Anderson, who disclosed the Reinecke-Mitchell meeting in his column today.

It was Anderson who sparked the current dispute by reproducing a secret memo allegedly written by a missing ITT lobbyist, Mrs. Dita Beard, now under subpoena and being hunted by the FBI.

The memo refers to "that \$400,000 commitment" and says "Mitchell is definitely helping us, but cannot let it be known."

The Senate hearings were

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abruptly recessed today until Tuesday when Sen. James Eastland (D-Miss.) said he intends to call Anderson; Mitchell; William Merriam, head of ITT's Washington office; Mrs. Beard, ITT's chief lobbyist,

and three surprise witnesses whose names, he said, were supplied by ITT.

Twin Denials

Both Kleindienst and Mitchell have claimed that they did not know of the Sheraton offer until long after the settlement of the antitrust action against ITT.

Mitchell disqualified himself from the ITT case because his — President Nixon's — former law firm had once represented ITT.

The new charges came from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who produced a letter written by an associate of Ralph Nader to Kleindienst and said it made "quite clear" that Kleindienst was aware of the ITT offer as early as last September. Kleindienst has said he first learned of it in a newspaper article last December.

Admits Talk

Kleindienst has been deputy attorney general, and Anderson charged in his columns that he had a direct hand in the settlement negotiations. Kleindienst denied it, although he acknowledged he talked with an ITT official about the antitrust matter.

Kennedy read from the letter, dated Sept. 21, 1971, from Reuben B. Robertson III, a Washington attorney associated with Nader, asking an explanation of the decision of the Justice Department not to prosecute ITT for violation of antitrust laws.

Robertson's letter asked "what is the relationship between this settlement and ITT's reported financial support to the city of San Diego in connection with the site of the Republican convention in 1972."

Another Letter

Kleindienst said he had no recollection of receiving the letter.

Kennedy then cited another letter, written by Richard W. McLaren, then assistant attorney general in charge of the antitrust division — but now a Federal judge in Chicago — written in answer to Robertson's letter.

McLaren said in the letter that Kleindienst never had any contact with Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.) said to be involved in the ITT contributions offer or that there was any connection between the settlement of the case and the contribution.

Kennedy asked Kleindienst how McLaren could have given these assurances to Robertson "without talking to you."

Kleindienst replied that he had no recollection of receiving the letter or discussing it with McLaren, but he added McLaren's letter indicated that the antitrust chief had called him about it.

"But I don't recall the conversation," Kleindienst testified.

McLaren said that from the context of the letter he must have asked Kleindienst whether he had had any contact with Wilson, a congressman who represents the San Diego district and who is chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee.

The Chicago judge said he could not have answered that question of Robertson's without having asked Kleindienst about it.



SENATOR EASTLAND AND RICHARD KLEINDIENST IN A PRIVATE CONFERENCE
Committee chairman and acting Attorney General met prior to start of yesterday afternoon's session

—UPI Photo



HER WHEREABOUTS A MYSTERY
Dita Beard, a Washington lobbyist for ITT Corp.

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