

Kleindienst's Revealing Testimony

How Things Get Done

By Mary McGrory

Washington

"Kliendienst" in German means "Little Service."

It is, of course, the name of the Attorney General Designate, who is accused of having rendered a large ser-

**A
News
Analysis**

vice to a giant corporation that had some trouble with the Justice Department and, even so, made a handsome present to the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

The question is whether International Telephone and Telegraph gave the Republicans \$400,000 or \$100,000—the figure is in dispute — out of hope or gratitude.

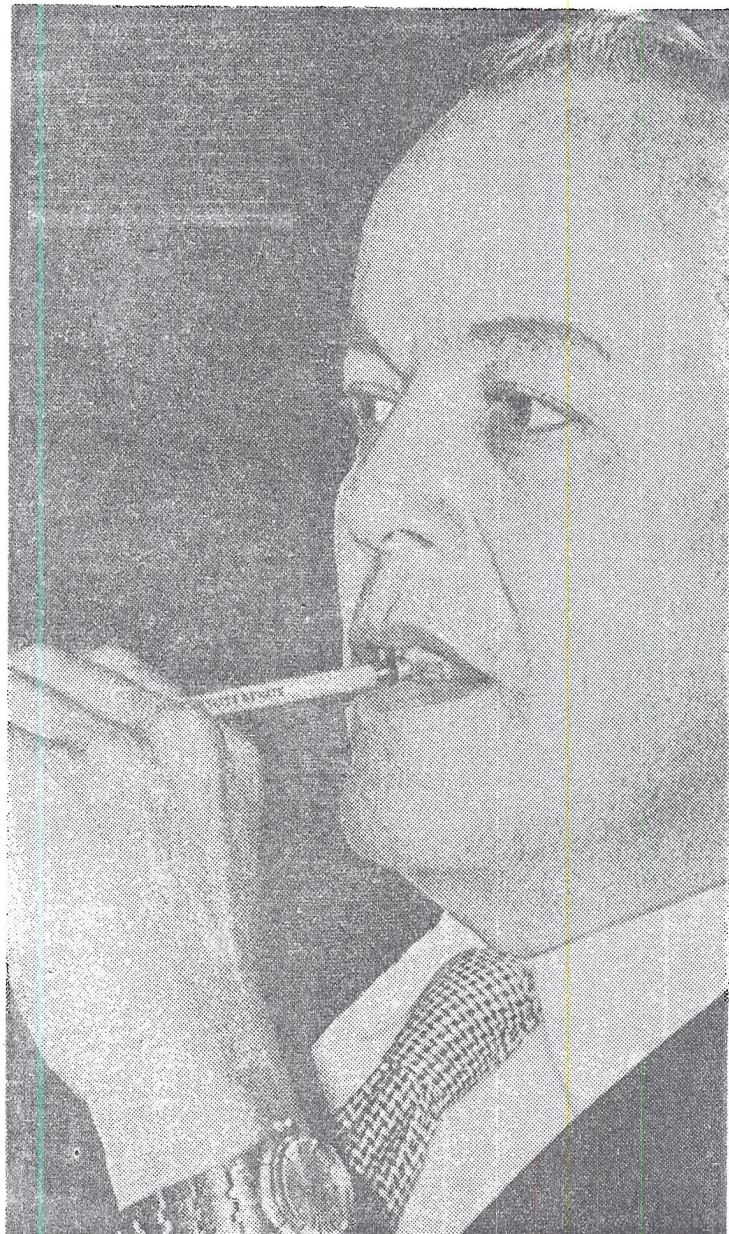
Richard Kleindienst asked to met with the Senate Judiciary Committee, which just a week ago had unamiably approved him.

Half the town turned out for the show. Hearings have gone out of style and this one gave off long-denied vapors of scandal at the top.

Columnist Jack Anderson, who originated the charges of Kleindienst's "tit" towards ITT sat in the front row, spoiling to finish him off. His big weapons: A secret memo from a lady lobbyist for ITT who dropped all the big names that led to the White House.

HEADY

What transpired during the long session Thursday was a heady glimpse of how



RICHARD G. KLEINDIENST
Appearances count

(P. Wirephoto)

in D.C.

things get done in Washington between the biggies of government and business.

There was also a picture of the altruistic corporation, preoccupied with the "economic statesmanship" now being peddled in the business magazines. They think not of themselves when caught in the toils of anti-trust, we are told, but of their stockholders, the ripple effect on the economy and the adverse impact on the balance of payments.

And there was also a new view of Kleindienst, the hard-liner out of the far right, the ogre to peace groups that have pleaded in vain for parade permits.

WIZARD

Kleindienst has an angry face and a truculent man-

ner, but not for Felix Rohatyn, an international financial wizard and a director of ITT.

Kleindienst, who had never heard of Rohatyn, granted him an interview on request. He had four subsequent meetings with him. He was impressed with his recital of the "ripple effects" that would follow the "harsh and rigid" settlement proposed by Richard McLaren, the chief of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division.

PARTIES

Senator Edward Kennedy, the champion of the Mayday Tribes whom Kleindienst caused to be jailed by the thousands, elicited from the Attorney General-Designate the fact that the meeting

was not, after all, completely out of the blue.

Kleindienst bore Kennedy's questioning with unconcealed resentment and impatience, but was to change his tune somewhat when Kennedy asked him about a man named Ryan. Kleindienst dismissed him as a "casual social acquaintance," a neighbor in suburban McClean, Va., whom he sometimes saw at neighborhood Christmas parties.

But he came back 15 minutes later, his recollection refreshed, and said that Ryan at a springtime gathering may have asked him to see someone in the company who could explain the "domestic consequences" of the antitrust action.

Kennedy told the hearing

after lunch that Ryan was John Ryan, deputy director of the ITT Washington office.

Why, some of the Democratic senators inquired, had Kleindienst seen Rohatyn at all? He had told Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien in a letter that he had never been involved in the ITT negotiations.

DUTY

There were not negotiations, Kleindienst said, and as an "officer of the government" he had been merely doing his duty.

He had arranged and sat in on a meeting with McLaren and Treasury officials. The outside financial economic expert was provided by the White House, "probably Peter Flanigan."

The mention of that name, notoriously solicitous of the boardroom, caused a titter in the hearing room.

McLaren seemed authentically pained that the settlement was being disparaged. He saw it as "stopping a juggernaut." Rohatyn called it "the largest divestment in the history of world enterprise."

TOUGHEST

The oddest part about the whole affair is that the settlement might have turned out as it did even without Kleindienst's intervention. McLaren has the reputation of being the toughest anti-trust chief of recent history, far more zealous than any Kennedy or Johnson appointee. He has since been made a federal judge, a circumstance that does not greatly aid in the appearance of things.

Senator Philip Hart (Dem-Mich.) observed sadly that 90 per cent of the people who read the story would not believe it.

"It is another chapter in the history of why people lack faith in the system," he told Kleindienst, who has perfect faith in the system and does not trouble himself about the way things look.

Kleindienst expects the Democrats not to believe him when he says that the settlement and the largesse "have 100 per cent nothing to do with Republican party politics." He is not concerned with "ripple effects" of the revelations, and he expects to be confirmed as Attorney General.