

SFE Examiner

ITT Case Role

Told By Judge

Washington - (AP) - U.S. District Judge Richard McLaren conceded today he apparently went through the White House in hiring an outside adviser who figured prominently in the out-of-court settlement of a multimillion dollar antitrust suit against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.

McLaren, telling of actions taken when he was head of the Justice Department's antitrust division, also testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee his former chief economic aide was not consulted because he was not a financial expert, he had a heavy workload and was not in a "need to know" position.

Judge McLaren made the statement during the fourth day of hearings into the committee's investigation on accusations by columnist Jack Anderson of impropriety by Justice Department officials in the settlement of the suit against ITT.

Gift Cited

Anderson has written that the suit was dropped after ITT pledged to contribute \$400,000 to help defray expenses of the Republican National Convention in San Diego next August.

Anderson has accused acting Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst of playing an important role in the decision to drop the suit.

Appearing with Kleindienst, McLaren said he apparently was wrong when he said last week that he did not consult with the White House in the selection of Richard J. Ramsden, a 34 year old New York invest-

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ment banker, to make the outside financial study of ITT and the repercussions of a divestiture sought by the Justice Department.

"I said I didn't remember recalling discussing the ITT case with the White House or Peter Flanigan. I still don't have a recollection. It now appears there was some consultation," McLaren said.

'A Conduit'

He said, however, that special White House assistant Flanigan "was simply a conduit for my request to secure Ramsden."

So far, the mystery woman of the whole affair, ITT's Washington lobbyist Dita D. Beard, has maintained silence. It was she who wrote the memo linking the ITT settlement with the firm's pledge of \$400,000 to help finance the GOP convention.

Her physician, Dr. Victor L. Liszka of Arlington, Va., told the committee yesterday that Mrs. Beard acts irrationally from time to time because of circulatory ailments complicated by excessive drinking and tranquilizers.

Disagrees

But her physician in Denver, where she remains hospitalized, disagreed.

"I don't believe Mrs. Beard has an emotional problem other than being somewhat apprehensive about this case," Dr. Lewis Radetsky, an osteopath specializing in heart ailments, told The Associated Press. He has been treating Mrs. Beard at the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital.

"I do not believe her to be emotionally upset," Radetsky said in a telephone interview. Her circulatory ailments contribute only to angina pectoris, he said, "and that is not an emotional problem — that is a heart problem."

Radetsky said Liszka's appraisal of Mrs. Beard as emotionally unstable was

"taken out of context because he didn't imply that when he was here." Radetsky said Mrs. Beard can be dismissed from the hospital within a week to 10 days.

Suspensaed

The Judiciary Committee has subpoenaed her to testify about her memo which said, in part, that John Mitchell "is definitely helping us, but cannot let it be known."

Mitchell, who resigned as attorney general March 1 to run President Nixon's reelection campaign, and Kleindienst, who was nominated to succeed Mitchell, have denied Anderson's allegations against them.

In testimony last week, Kleindienst insisted that McLaren had handled the ITT antitrust action exclusively. Kleindienst later conceded that he had been present at some department meetings at which the case had been discussed.

Action Delayed

The Senate has delayed action on Kleindienst's nomination pending developments in the case.

During Monday's session, Liszka quoted Mrs. Beard as denying any connection between the out-of-court settlement of the antitrust suit and the corporation's pledge of funds for the GOP convention in San Diego in August.

He said she "is very anxious to testify."

"She didn't mean to imply things she seemed to imply in that memo. She was just mad and disturbed when she wrote it," said Liszka. The doctor said he was authorized by Mrs. Beard to relate her comments.