

Carolyn Lewis, Capitol Hill:

Richard Kleindienst's nomination is on hold. I. T. and T. and the Republican party's reputations are under fire. And now the committee has agreed to extend its study to Life Magazine's charges that Kleindienst helped the Justice Department block an investigation into a possible Republican fund-raising conspiracy. Hearings into that question begin on Monday.

For weeks now it was Republicans like Hugh Scott and Roman Hruska who pressed for an end to the entire proceedings, but in a startling last-minute turn-about some of those Republicans joined with Democrats Robert Byrd and James Eastland to vote an extension to April 20th. And it was the liberal Democrats, plus Republican Marlow Cook, who opposed it. The Republicans who switched did so because they did not want to leave themselves open to a charge of trying to cover up or whitewash I. T. and T., and the Democrats opposed the April 20th extension when they were unable to win a firm commitment that two witnesses would be heard before that date: White House aide Peter Flanigan and California congressman Bob Wilson. Flanigan and Wilson may yet appear, but as matters stand now there is no guarantee that the hearings will go on until their testimony is heard.

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