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ITT OFFICIAL EDWARD GERRITY
'I admit I was serving our self interest'

Ervin's Hard Line On ITT Hearing

Washington

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. insisted yesterday that Peter M. Flanigan and other White House aides testify publicly under oath in the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. controversy.

His stand dashed the hopes of Republicans for a compromise to avoid Senate confrontation over executive privilege.

The statement by the North Carolina Democrat heightened the possibility that the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General could become stalled on the Senate floor, perhaps by a filibuster, after the current Judiciary Committee hearings end.

On Thursday Senator Charles McC. Mathias,



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SAM J. ERVIN
Speculation will arise

(Rep-Md.) proposed a compromise that would permit Flanigan to appear informally before the committee, which is investigating allegations that the Justice Department settled three anti-trust suits against ITT in exchange for a \$400,000 guarantee toward the expenses of the 1972 Republican National Convention.

The hearings have turned up the names of four White House assistants who had some contact with ITT's efforts to obtain the settlement — Flanigan, John D. Ehrlichman, William E. Timmons and Charles W. Colson.

Ervin, who has skirmished frequently with the White House over its use of the "executive privilege" doctrine to avoid furnishing information to Congress, said he would not accept "whispered" testimony.

"I think this committee, the Senate, and the American people are entitled to hear any testimony from any source which would re-establish the reputation of the White House in these matters," he said. He added that "nobody is ever anxious to suppress the truth unless the truth will hurt him."

The White House has indicated in a letter to the committee and in informal statements by spokesmen that Flanigan and the other aides will not be permitted to testify.

Administration officials insist that these advisers have nothing to hide but that to have them testify would prompt Congress to demand the testimony of officials in more sensitive positions, such as Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's chief foreign policy adviser.

Edward J. Gerrity of New York, ITT's vice president in charge of public relations, testified yesterday that the company's Washington lobbyist, Dita D. Beard, did not categorically deny having written the memorandum that touched off the current controversy.

The memorandum, bearing her name and linking ITT's commitment to the GOP convention with the company's hopes for a settlement, was obtained by columnist Jack Anderson. After Anderson got the document but before he published it, Gerrity and ITT's lawyers in New York spent two days questioning her.

According to Gerrity, she kept repeating, "I think I wrote it, it looks like mine — but couldn't have written it, it isn't true."

Three weeks later, Mrs. Beard branded the Anderson memorandum a forgery, and ITT claimed it has discovered "the genuine" memorandum, which proved innocuous.

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