

Committee Recommendation

Kleindienst OK'd

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee voted late today to reaffirm its favorable report on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general.

The 11 to 4 vote by the committee came at the end of eight weeks of investigation into Kleindienst's role in the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust cases against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Only hours before the vote Kleindienst appeared again before the committee and said he could not remember details of calls and a meeting he had with White House aide Peter M. Flanigan in which an antitrust case against ITT was mentioned.

Hazy Recollection

In answer to a series of questions by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) Kleindienst said he had only the haziest recollection of

the conversations with Flanigan and that they were sparked only by the White House aide's recent testimony.

Kleindienst told the Senate Judiciary Committee Flanigan might have told him that ITT was unhappy with the terms of the settlement put forth by the Justice Department but he does not recall the conversation.

He had previously testified, and repeated today, he

had taken the position that Richard J. McLaren, then head of the antitrust division, would handle the ITT case by himself.

"The only thing I was interested in was his final report," he said.

The Judiciary Committee was expected to vote later today on a report to Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield on the nomination of Kleindienst to succeed John N. Mitchell as attorney general.

The committee recalled Kleindienst to the witness stand for the third time to answer questions about apparent discrepancies between his earlier testimony and statements by Flanigan concerning the Justice Department's decision to make an out-of-court settlement with ITT over a multibillion dollar antitrust case.

Previous Testimony

Flanigan wrote the committee this week that he had three contacts with Kleindienst: Once in a telephone conversation to tell him an independent analysis of ITT's antitrust case had been completed; once in a discussion informing Kleindienst that ITT was displeased with the harshness of a proposed settlement of the case, and when he delivered an analysis, written by Wall Street investment banker Richard Ramsden, to

Kleindienst and McLaren, then head of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

Kleindienst previously testified he could not remember any specific contacts with Flanigan on the case, but that some casual conversations might have occurred. He also stated earlier that he did not talk to Flanigan at all about the Ramsden report.

Kleindienst said he had no recollection of the other contacts with Flanigan either.

No Explanation

As to the meeting when Flanigan delivered the Ramsden report to him, he said:

"That meeting was so insignificant, so immaterial, and inconsistent with respect to my posture in the case, it just doesn't stick in my mind."

Kennedy asked why Flanigan contacted Kleindienst at all about the ITT case. Kleindienst answered that he had "a warm personal relationship" with Flanigan and such a contact would not have been unusual.