

U.S. Attorney Case**Tunney Assails Kleindienst Role****Washington**

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.) yesterday accused Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst of dereliction of duty in clearing a United States attorney of wrongfully interfering with a federal investigation of illegal political contributions to the Republican party.

He also charged there was "substantial evidence" of White House involvement in

the matter and that Kleindienst, then a deputy attorney general, acted "for purely political reasons."

These were the chief conclusions in a 20-page report Tunney filed with the Senate in giving his personal views on why Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general should be rejected.

The Senate Judiciary Committee initially approved the nomination unanimously.

Then on a second go-round following an investigation

into an alleged link between an out-of-court antitrust settlement against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. and that firm's pledge to help underwrite the cost of the GOP convention, the committee approved the nomination on an 11 to 4 vote.

Senators Birch Bayh (Dem-Ind.) and Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), are expected to join Tunney in his report dealing with U.S. Attorney Harry Steward of California's southern U.S.

district court. And Tunney is expected to join Kennedy and Bayh in a denunciation of Kleindienst for his role in the out-of-court settlement of the ITT case.

According to allegations by Life magazine, Steward "tampered with justice" in intervening in an investigation of Frank Thornton and C. Arnholt Smith, prominent San Diego fund raisers and contributors to the Republican party.

Steward conceded that he blocked a subpoena for

Thornton to testify before a federal grand jury investigating illegal campaign contributions. *United Press*