

Vote Thursday On Kleindienst

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Senate agreed today to vote Thursday on Richard Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general, ending the longest investigation of a presidential appointee in history.

Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield announced the agreement and won unanimous consent for the plan after two days of intense backroom negotiations with opponents of Kleindienst's selection to succeed John M. Mitchell.

Under the plan worked out by the leaders and the opponents, there will be two votes on the nomination. The first will be on a motion to send the nomination back to the Judiciary Committee for further study. If this were approved it would be tantamount to killing the appointment.

If that vote fails — as anticipated — a vote would then follow immediately on the nomination itself. Informal surveys indicated that Kleindienst probably will win confirmation with ease, with no more than 20 to 25 votes against him.

Kleindienst, 48, is a former Arizona lawyer who was a key figure in Sen. Barry Goldwater's 1964 presidential campaign. He also was active in Richard M. Nixon's 1968 campaign.

The Judiciary Committee originally approved his nomination on Feb. 29 after two days of hearings. But at Kleindienst's request, it reopened its hearings after charges surfaced that he was involved in settlement of an federal antitrust suit after the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. pledged \$400,000 to underwrite the Republican National Convention this summer.

What followed was a running controversy. It sparked more than two months of additional committee hearings and a week of formal floor debate. In the meantime, the convention was moved from San Diego to Miami Beach.

On April 27, the committee again voted on Kleindienst's nomination and it was again approved, this time by a vote of 11 to 4.