

Kleindienst

JUN 6 1972

SF Examiner

FUN IS FUN, politics is politics, and both can be overplayed. The trick is to realize when enough is enough.

Such realization is conspicuously missing among some Senate Democrats who, since last February, have been blocking confirmation of Richard G. Kleindienst as President Nixon's nominee for Attorney General.

They had apparent good reason at first — charges that Kleindienst was entangled in allegations that the Justice Department had settled an antitrust case against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. because of an ITT contribution to the Republican national convention.

The result was a classic political circus, with Democrats trying to create an election year scandal out of evidence which became progressively more elusive and confusing.

An end to the fun and games should have come when the Senate Judiciary Committee, after its seven-week probe, recommended for the second time that Kleindienst be confirmed.

They positively should have ended when a federal judge in Los Angeles, concerned only with the facts involved, threw out a suit charging ITT with illegal action.

Despite all this — despite the nominee's certified outstanding ability, despite the lack of any substance to the original charges, a small group of powerful Democratic senators continued to stall the confirmation.

They hope to get a few more headlines by beating an obviously dead horse in final Senate debate. The approaching vote — to confirm or not to confirm — will end this unseemly circus.