

White House Acts

Cox Finally Gets That ITT File

Washington

The White House has given Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox an International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. file he asked for a month ago, it was learned yesterday.

A spokesman for the prosecutor's office confirmed that the file had been received recently. He refused to be more specific and declined further comment.

Disclosure of receipt of the file, which Cox had described as of the utmost importance to his investigation of the ITT antitrust settlement, was made on the eve of the courtroom debate on Cox' demand for White House tapes of presidential conversations about Watergate.

The President refused to obey a subpoena Cox issued demanding the tapes.

REVIVAL

The ITT case, which was a major issue at the Senate confirmation hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general, cropped up again at the Senate Watergate committee hearings with release of a White House memorandum that said documents ex-

isted that could link President Nixon to the settlement.

The White House declined comment on the memo other than to say "policy decisions" may have been sent to the Justice Department from the President and that such action would have been "entirely within the proper application of the antitrust laws."

Watergate committee chief counsel Samuel Dash said the memo also indicated former Attorney General John N. Mitchell may have committed perjury during the Kleindienst confirmation hearings.

Three government antitrust suits against ITT were settled in 1971, not long after an ITT subsidiary pledged \$400,000 to help cover the cost of the 1972 Republican National Convention then scheduled for San Diego.

ISSUE

The settlement became an issue at the Kleindienst hearings after columnist Jack Anderson published a memorandum, allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita Beard, that linked the settlement to the \$400,000 contribution.

At the Kleindienst hear-

ings, Mitchell testified he knew nothing of the ITT pledge prior to the antitrust settlement.

On August 1, the Senate Watergate committee released the text of a White House memo dated March 30, 1972, from Charles W. Colson, former special counsel, to H. R. Haldeman, then presidential staff chief, which said that Mitchell was told about the pledge one month before the settlement.

Associated Press