

Possible Perjury In the ITT Case



Jack Anderson

AT THE TIME of his firing, special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox had gathered evidence pointing to perjury against at least five witnesses who testified in the ITT case.

After we published the famous Dita Beard memorandum in February 1972, the Senate Judiciary Committee was called into special session to re-examine the nomination of Richard Kleindienst as Attorney General. Witness after witness took the stand to deny the Beard memo's assertion that the antitrust settlement was linked to a \$400,000 political donation from ITT.

The Cox crew has now obtained strong evidence that perjury was possibly committed during the hearings by former Attorney General John Mitchell, ITT president Harold Geneen, ITT vice president E. J. (Ned) Gerrity, California Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke and by Kleindienst himself.

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THE BIGGEST LIAR, apparently, was Mitchell. He told the committee he knew nothing of ITT's promise to put up funds to support the Republican National Convention.

This was supported by Reinecke, who reversed the position he had taken with several newsmen and swore he never discussed the matter of ITT's pledge with Mitchell or anyone else at the Justice Department.

Subsequently, Reinecke changed his mind again and said publicly that he had told Mitchell of ITT's commitment by telephone in May 1971 — weeks before the ITT antitrust settlement was reached. Rei-

necke's latest statement is not only strong evidence against Mitchell but is an outright acknowledgement that his own testimony was not so.

Mitchell also told the committee that, while he had a meeting to discuss anti-trust policy with ITT president Harold Geneen in August 1970, the ITT cases themselves were not discussed in any way.

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GENEEN'S top vice president, E.J. Gerrity, told a different story, however, in a memo to Vice President Spiro Agnew written a few days after Mitchell and Geneen had met.

"Hal (Geneen) had a very friendly session with John (Mitchell)," the memo informed Agnew. "John made plain to him that the President was not opposed to mergers per se, that he believed some mergers were good and that in no case had we been sued because 'bigness is bad.' Hal discussed this in detail because (Assistant Attorney General Richard) McLaren had said and in his complaint indicated strongly that bigness is bad. John made plain that was not the case. Hal said on that basis he was certain we could work out something. John said he would talk with McLaren and get back to Hal."

Finally, there is the fact, now admitted to Cox by Kleindienst and confirmed by the White House, that President Nixon intervened personally in the ITT cases at one point to order Kleindienst's testimony that he was "not interfered with by anybody at the White House. I was not impertuned; I was not pressured; I was not directed."

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