

Ex-Nixon Aide's Affidavit on I.T.T.

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WASHINGTON, July 19—Following is the text of an affidavit submitted to the House Judiciary Committee on April 29, 1974, by Peter G. Peterson, former Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, dealing with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation case.

PETER G. PETERSON, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the Chairman of the Board of Lehman Brothers, One William Street, New York, New York. I make this affidavit knowing that it may be relied upon by the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives in connection with proceedings before it.

2. Beginning on February 15, 1971 and at all times hereinafter mentioned, I was Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs.

3. At the instance of John D. Ehrlichman, I met on March 30, 1971 with William R. Merriam and Thomas H. Casey, both officials of the International Telephone and Telegraph Company (ITT). We discussed a wide range of subjects, including the Office of Foreign Direct Investment, company earnings abroad and general antitrust matters.

4. At some time after April 8, 1971, Mr. Ehrlichman told me that the President wanted me to meet with Mr. Harold S. Geneen, President of ITT. I believe Mr. Ehrlichman said antitrust matters were one of the things he wanted to talk about. Pursuant to those instructions, I met with Messrs. Geneen and William R. Merriam on April 16, 1971 at about 2:30 p.m. For most of our 30 or 40 minute meeting, we discussed a wide variety of general subjects dealing with the declining international economic position of the U.S., technology, productivity, capital controls abroad and overall antitrust policy relating to "bigness." At the end of the meeting, Messrs. Geneen and Merriam briefly discussed ITT's specific antitrust problems, including the fact that the deadline for the ITT-Grinnell appeal was approaching.

Appeal Postponement Cited

5. After the meeting I telephoned Mr. Ehrlichman to report on the meeting and mentioned their reference to the ITT-Grinnell appeal. To the best of my recollection, he told me that the situa-

tion was well in hand, or under control, and, in any event, he indicated that action was under way to postpone the appeal.

6. Later that afternoon, there was delivered to me a copy of a letter and memorandum from Lawrence E. Walsh, an attorney for ITT, directed to Richard G. Kleindienst, Deputy Attorney General, explaining ITT's position that a delay in the ITT-Grinnell appeal would be advisable. (At the meeting with Messrs. Geneen and Merriam, Merriam had asked if I would be willing to see the material prepared by Walsh, and I said that I would be glad to do so.) On April 21, 1971, I sent this material to Arthur F. Burns, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, who was then studying antitrust matters on behalf of the President.

7. A group of individuals met informally from time to time during March and/or April, 1972, in John Ehrlichman's White House office for the purpose of discussing the progress of the Kleindienst hearings. They included Mr. Ehrlichman, Mr. Colson, Mr. Fielding, Richard Moore, William Timmons, Mr. Mardian and me. Others would sometimes attend as well. The participants in any one meeting, or even at any one time during a specific meeting, varied. I did not attend every meeting. The subjects covered at said meetings were, generally, the occurrences of the day, assignments and expected developments. I cannot recall any discussion as to possible perjury committed during the Kleindienst hearings by John Mitchell or Mr. Kleindienst, nor do I recall that any information came to my attention either during those meetings or at any other time which indicated to me that either of them testified other than fully and truthfully.

8. On the morning of the testimony of Ed Reinecke before the Senate Judiciary Committee, I recall seeing Mr. Reinecke and his aide Edgar Gillenwaters in or around Mr. MacGregor's office in the White House. I believe Mr. Mardian was also there. I do not know the substance of any conversation they may have had nor did I meet Mr. Reinecke or Mr. Gillenwaters.

9. I never met with the President with respect to the Kleindienst hearings and I have no personal knowledge of the President's activities, if any, relating to those hearings.

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