

Kleindienst Can Still Practice Law

Washington

A three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court yesterday dismissed disciplinary proceedings against Richard G. Kleindienst, the former attorney general convicted of a Watergate-related crime.

"Upon consideration of the entire record, the disciplinary panel is of the opinion that no disciplinary action is warranted against the respondent," the two-page order said.

It was signed by judges Howard F. Corcoran, Oliver Gasch and John Lewis Smith Jr.

The decision leaves Kleindienst free to practice law.

Kleindienst pleaded guilty June 7 of failing to testify "accurately and fully" about the ITT case at his Senate confirmation hearings in 1972. Praised by chief U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr., Kleindienst received a suspended sentence of 30 days' probation and a \$100 fine.

Originally, Watergate prosecutors had considered felony perjury charges against Kleindienst, but the former attorney general was

finally allowed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge. The decision to let the case rest on a lesser charge angered several members of the prosecution staff. Had Kleindienst been convicted of a felony, he would in all likelihood have been disbarred.

The panel said yesterday that in reaching its decision it took into consideration Kleindienst's Senate testimony and Hart's pre-sentence report.

Kleindienst, originally a lawyer in Phoenix, Ariz., has been practicing law here since he resigned from the Justice Department April 30, 1973, at the peak of the Watergate scandal.

United Press

Ford Still On Columbus, Ohio

Ohio State University officials confirmed yesterday that President Ford will fulfill an earlier commitment to address the university's summer quarter commencement on August 30.

Associated Press