

Angry Kleindienst Denies Any Perjury

Washington

Richard Kleindienst, angry at the release of documents showing that some members of the Watergate special prosecutor's office had wanted to indict him on felony charges, said yesterday that not only did he not perjure himself in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1972, but also that he did not commit the misdemeanor to which he pleaded guilty in 1974.

The former attorney general said it was "unconscionable" that the government released the internal documents because they contained a great deal of "speculation" about evidence and motive that had never been tested in court.

He said that he had decided to plead guilty to the misdemeanor charge on the advice of his lawyers and his friends, because after two

years of Watergate, first as the Attorney General responsible for the investigation and later as a target of that same inquiry, he was "a nervous, emotional and physical wreck."

Kleindienst agrees that President Nixon telephoned him and, in very strong language, told him to stop the antitrust suit against ITT. But he argues that he refused to do this, and then proceeded to have his office negotiate an out-of-court settlement with the company.

A careful reading of the testimony, he said, will show that he was being asked about the "settlement," not about the original suit, when he testified that there had been no pressure from the White House. In fact, there was no pressure from the White House concerning the "settlement" itself, he said.

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