

# Curious Events With ITT in Chile



— Jack Anderson

**W**AS International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) behind the U.S. effort to undermine the late Salvador Allende's government in Chile? Consider these curious coincidences:

- On March 21, 1972, we reported that the CIA and ITT had been "plotting together to create economic chaos in Chile, hoping this would cause the Chilean army to pull a coup . . ." The CIA spent \$8 million, most of it on economic sabotage, to weaken Allende's government. The coup came exactly 18 months after he reported the CIA-ITT scheme.

- Even before Allende took office, we also reported, ITT sent a secret message to Henry Kissinger urging American action to stop Allende. The Marxist leader had won Chile's election by a plurality, not a majority. Under the constitution, therefore, the Chilean congress would make the final choice between Allende and the second highest vote-getter. The CIA passed out \$350,000 to bribe members of the Chilean congress to vote against Allende.

- ITT's links with the CIA were unusually strong. John McCone, a former CIA director, had become an ITT director. Among the ITT documents, which we uncovered, was an Oct. 9, 1970, report, to McCone on Chile declaring: "Approaches continue to be made to select members of the armed forces in an attempt to have

them lead some sort of uprising — no success to date."

- Edward Korry, the former U.S. Ambassador to Chile, operated the U.S. embassy virtually as a branch office for ITT. The ITT documents in our possession show he described his anti-Allende activities to ITT's director of international relations, J. D. Neal. Korry's reports to ITT often were more candid than his reports to the State Department.

- We wrote a series of columns in March, 1972, describing how the CIA and ITT had conspired together to promote Chile's economic collapse. Kissinger personally assured us, however, that the scheme had never been carried out. On his word, he wrote that the plan received a "cool reception from the White House and State Department." Now we learn that Kissinger, after telling us this, approved additional CIA expenditures to undermine the Chilean economy. The last million was approved as late as August, 1973, only a month before the coup.

Meanwhile, we turned our files over to Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho) whose subcommittee scolded both the CIA and ITT for their bizarre plottings. But because U.S. officials lied under oath to the subcommittee, Church was never able to get to the bottom of the affair. We would still like to know what role ITT played in manipulating U.S. foreign policy.