

Bork's Prior Link To the ITT Case

Washington

Before he became acting attorney general, Robert H. Bork, met twice with a federal judge in Hartford last year to discuss the controversial settlement of the ITT antitrust case.

As top man in the Justice Department, Bork is responsible for directing the investigation of the 1971 settlement involving the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

The judge, M. Joseph Blumenfeld, was considering appointing Bork as a special master to gather evidence relating to the possible reopening of the case, following a request from consumer advocate, Ralph Nader.

YALE

However, Bork, then a Yale law school professor, and Blumenfeld agreed that there was no need for an additional investigation into the matters raised by Nader. The judge subsequently ruled against the Nader application.

Bork is a long-time friend and former law partner of Hammond E. Chaffetz, a Chicago attorney who represented ITT in one segment of the complex antitrust

case. Chaffetz was prominently mentioned in confidential ITT memorandums describing meetings between the company and high Nixon administration officials.

Bork, in an interview, confirmed the meetings with Blumenfeld.

He said that he recalled discussing the ITT case with Chaffetz only once, and that was after the government had settled the outstanding antitrust cases against the big conglomerate.

CLOSE

Reuben B. Robertson MD, a Washington attorney and Nader's associate in the case, decried Bork's meetings with Blumenfeld, and urged yesterday that he disassociate himself from any Justice Department investigation of ITT.

"Because of his involvement in this case, and his very close relationships in the past with ITT's law firm, Mr. Bork should certainly disqualify himself from any further involvement in the Justice Department's or the special prosecutor's investigation of ITT and related matters," he said.

Bork said that he did not believe his earlier involvements with Blumenfeld and Chaffetz were grounds for disqualifying himself from the ITT investigation, although he said he would be "willing to take legal advice" on the matter.