

Senate Panel Approves Kleindienst Nomination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee today unanimously approved President Nixon's nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general.

The committee's action on a 13 to 0 vote finally cleared the way for Senate confirmation of the 48-year-old Arizonan by the Senate next week, possibly by the time Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell's resignation becomes effective March 1.

The committee also unanimously approved the nomination of L. Patrick Gray III of New London, Conn., to succeed Kleindienst as deputy attorney general.

Gray now is an assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's civil division.

SEN. EDWARD M. Kennedy, D-ass., was among those voting to approve Kleindienst's nomination and he told newsmen that he will vote for confirmation in the Senate.

However, Kennedy said he will file a statement of his views expressing area of disagreement with policies supported by Kleindienst.

The committee agreed to file its report to the Senate, including any individual views, by next Tuesday. 19 FEB

Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, a Judiciary Committee member, said he hoped the Senate could act on the nomination

by Wednesday.

KENNEDY SAID he draws a distinction between appointments to the Cabinet and to the judiciary, which is a separate branch of government. He said he feels President Nixon is entitled to select his own advisers.

Three of the committee's 16 members were absent when the vote was taken on the two

nominations.

Mitchell has resigned to direct President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Kleindienst concluded his committee testimony yesterday. In six hours before the panel, the 48-year-old lawyer was questioned primarily by liberal Democratic Sens. Birch Bayh, Phillip A. Hart, John Tunney and Edward M. Kennedy.