

On Medicare

FRAUD PROBE OF LISZKAS

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Washington - The physician who attempted to sidestep the hint of scandal in the nomination of Richard Kleindienst as Attorney General has been investigated on charges of attempting to defraud the Medicare program, it was learned today.

Dr. Victor Liskza now has been cleared, but his doctor-wife Catherine, who is in joint practice with him, still faces prosecution.

The investigation of the Liskzas was revealed by the Justice Department as the Senate Judiciary Committee resumed its investigation today to determine if Kleindienst did a favor for International Telephone and Telegraph in exchange for the firm's \$400,000 guarantee to the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

Liskza testified yesterday that he had been treating ITT lobbyist Dita Beard for a heart condition in a Denver hospital.

According to Liskza, Mrs. Beard has denied to him that she meant to connect a

favorable ITT antitrust ruling with the firm's guarantee to the GOP.

As Kleindienst, President Nixon's selection to succeed John Mitchell as Attorney General, returned to the witness stand, the Justice Department's criminal division revealed the investigation of the Liskzas, who practice in Arlington, Va.

The Justice Department said Liskza's wife would be the subject of federal prosecution on Medicare fraud.

"The referral resulted from an investigation of al-

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legations that Dr. Kiszka had defrauded the Social Security Administration with respect to certain Medicare payments," the Justice Department said.

"As a result of the investigation, however, it was determined that Dr. Liskza was not responsible for the excess payment involved."

The Justice Department said that it had determined that Dr. Liskza was innocent of wrongdoing and the evidence only justified action against his wife.

Volunteered

Dr. Liskza met with Justice Department officials before testifying before the Kleindienst hearing yesterday. But a Justice Department spokesman insisted that Liskza volunteered to testify and in no way was urged by department officials.

Kleindienst had hoped to scuttle any hint of a scandal surrounding the ITT affair but the hearings have now developed into a quagmire of suspicion that is bound to be an election year issue.