

Mitchell Knew, Anderson Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Columnist Jack Anderson contended today that John N. Mitchell, as attorney general, knew early last year of a pledge allegedly made by the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. to the Republican National Convention even though he has denied it.

"Mitchell was running the Republican Party from inside the Justice Department," said Anderson.

"If he says under oath what he said in the statement he issued it will be the most arrogant example of perjury this committee has ever seen."

Anderson referred to Mitchell's Feb. 28 statement which the Justice Department issued to deny accusations made by the columnist that the settlement of an antitrust case against ITT was arranged by Mitchell and top ITT officials.

Anderson said that California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke and his aide, Edgar Gillenwaters, have confirmed that he discussed ITT's commitment to the convention with Mitchell last May at the same time the Justice Department was negotiating a settlement of three antitrust suits against ITT.

Mitchell was expected to testify after Anderson during hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee into charges by Anderson that Justice Department officials committed improprieties in the ITT settlement.

The committee convened the hearings at the request of acting Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst, who asked to answer Anderson's charges about his department. Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general is now before the Senate.

ANDERSON'S comments, in answer to questions by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D Mass., brought on a political skirmish in which Republican Sens. Marlow Cook of Kentuc-

ky and Roman Hruska of Nebraska asked that Anderson not be allowed to continue his testifying about Mitchell.

"This committee should not have to listen to this political diatribe," said Hruska. "We should get only the facts."

Cook said, "the former attorney general can speak for himself. We shouldn't have to sink this low."

In testimony yesterday an investigator for Anderson, Brit Hume, said he was told by an ITT lobbyist that President Nixon was involved in efforts to settle the ITT case.

MITCHELL said almost immediately after Hume testified that "the President has never, repeat never, made any request to me directly or indirectly concerning the settlement of the ITT case and I took no part in that settlement."

Anderson and Hume were scheduled to continue their testimony today as the committee began its seventh day of hearings into the accusations by Anderson that Justice Department officials were guilty of improprieties in the ITT settlement.

Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss., said he wants Dita D. Beard, the ITT lobbyist quoted by Hume, to testify before the committee hearings — probably in about a week. However, Eastland said he does not plan to send investigators to Denver where Mrs. Beard is hospitalized with a heart ailment.

Anderson has published a memorandum attributed to Mrs. Beard in which she suggested out-of-court settlement of the multibillion-dollar suits against ITT was linked with the corporation's \$400,000 pledge to the Republican National Committee.