

transcribed from tape

..... Last Sunday Life Magazine reported "The Nixon Administration has seriously tampered with justice in the city of San Diego in an effort to protect certain of its most important friends there from prosecution."

..... [Harry Steward, U.S. attorney for the southern district of California] denied the charges on Monday, calling them a rehash of allegations made over a year ago by The Street Journal, an underground paper in San Diego. He said the charges were "thoroughly investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at my request," and that on February 18th of last year Richard Kleindienst, who was then Deputy Attorney General and who is now Acting Attorney General, issued a statement saying, "I have evaluated the matter and determined that there has been no wrong-doing. The Justice Department considers this matter closed and Mr. Steward will continue to serve as the U.S. District for the southern district of California with the full confidence of the Attorney General." After reading that quotation to newsmen on Monday Mr. Steward said, "I have been authorized to state that it is still the Department's position."

But in Washington, Democratic Senator John Tunney of California said, "The Life Magazine article raises serious charges of direct involvement by Mr. Kleindienst in preventing alleged violations of federal law. I believe the Judiciary Committee should make a full investigation of the charges." Senator Tunney is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Kleindienst has denied any wrong-doing and on the CBS program, "60 Minutes" on Sunday night [19 Mar] he said, "If anyone can produce just one iota of evidence that I've done anything dishonest in this job or that I have tampered with justice for political reasons, I'll resign this job."

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