SFExaminer Evidence

On Kleindienst

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif.) claiming he has new evidence linking Acting Attorney General Richard Kleindienst to an alleged deal to cover up illegal Republican campaign contributions, says he believes the Senate will continue its investigation of Kleindienst, ITT and Justice Department activities.

Tunney said he would

present the information to the Senate Judiciary Committee when it resumes its hearings next Thursday, on Kleindienst's nomination to be attorney general.

The resumption of the hearings also will see an attempt by Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Neb.) and other Republicans to end the month-long investigation that has prevented Kleindienst from formally taking over the post relinquished by former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Tunney declined to detail what his documents were but he said he was confident the committee would vote to continue the investigation once it saw them.

The senator said his information does not relate to antitrust activities concerning International Telephone & Telegraph as most of the hearing has, but rather to allegations made recently in Life Magazine.

That report claimed that Kleindienst, when he was deputy attorney general, absolved Harry Steward, U.S. Attorney for Southern California, of any wrongdoing in quashing a federal inquiry into contributions to President Nixon's 1968 election campaign

The article said C. Arnholt Smith, a big Nixon's financial backer, had sponsored Steward for the U.S. Attorney post.