

Tunney Says 3 I.T.T. Aides May Be Guilty of Perjury

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By FRED P. GRAHAM APR 7 1972

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WASHINGTON, April 6 — Senator John V. Tunney of California said today that a newspaper interview by Representative Bob Wilson indicated that three officials of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation may have committed perjury before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

His statement came as the Judiciary Committee agreed to vote by noon tomorrow on a compromise plan to hold nine more days of hearings in its five-week-long investigation into the qualifications of Richard G. Kleindienst to be confirmed as Attorney General. The committee tentatively approved a list of at least 17 more witnesses who will be heard between now and April 20, if time permits.

Senator Tunney, a Democrat,

released what he said was the full transcript of a taped interview that Mr. Wilson gave a San Diego newsman on March 3.

In it, Mr. Wilson quoted Mrs. Dita D. Beard, I.T.T.'s Washington lobbyist, as saying "Dita tells me she typed up" the memorandum that was published by the columnist Jack Anderson and that touched off the Judiciary Committee's inquiry into the Justice Department's settlement of three antitrust cases against I.T.T.

Mrs. Beard testified that the Anderson memorandum was a forgery.

Mr. Wilson also said in the interview, according to the transcript, that W. R. Merriam, head of I.T.T.'s Washington office, had said "I did get that

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said, to Merriam, and at the end it says, 'Please tear this up, huh' So there it is: Jack Anderson had the original, not just the copy, but the original memo."
Mr. Wilson added, according to the transcript, that Mr. Merriam came to his office on Feb. 28 and said, "I did get that memo," but I'm sure I gave it back to Dita." Mr. Wilson then said, "I.T.T. puts out the story that nobody ever saw it . . . the hell they didn't."
Mr. Wilson asserted in the transcript that the memorandum "had to come from Merriam" to Mr. Anderson, and that Edward J. Gerrity, I.T.T.'s vice president for public relations, was "the Svengali who got Merriam to do this."

Mr. Wilson, a Republican who represents most of the San Diego area, also in the transcript quoted Harold S. Geneen, president of I.T.T., as guaranteeing to underwrite up to \$400,000 of the expense for the 1972 Republican National Convention in San Diego. Mr. Geneen swore in his testimony that his company's commitment was only \$200,000.

"There is a possibility, if Wilson's statement is correct, of three counts of perjury," Mr. Tunney said—one each against Mrs. Beard, Mr. Merriam and Mr. Geneen.

The interview was taped by Robert E. Cox, a reporter of The San Diego Union, on March 3. The newspaper published some of the information at the time but did not print the full substance of the three items mentioned by Mr. Tunney until today.

Gene Gregston, editor of The Union, explained that these statements by Mr. Wilson had not appeared important until subsequent—and apparently inconsistent—sworn statements had been given to the Judiciary Committee.

'Noble Commitment'

The memorandum, purportedly written by Mrs. Beard, that was published by Mr. Anderson linked I.T.T.'s "noble commitment" of about \$400,000 to hopes for a favorable settlement of the three antitrust suits. The memorandum was dated June 25. The suits were settled on July 31.

In the transcript, Mr. Wilson quoted Mrs. Beard as saying that she had written the memorandum at the request of Mr. Merriam, who insisted that he did not understand the details of I.T.T.'s commitment and said, "Put it in writing so I'll understand it."

Mr. Wilson continued, "And so she hand carried it, she

The Congressman's theory was that they were jealous of Mrs. Beard because of her influence with Mr. Geneen, and they arranged publication of the memorandum "to get rid of Dita, and the thing blew up in their face."

Mr. Wilson issued a brief statement today that confirmed that he had been interviewed by Mr. Cox and did not deny the authenticity of the transcript. He pointed out that he did not say in the interview or elsewhere that there was a link between the settlement of the antitrust cases and the guarantee by I.T.T.'s Sheraton Hotel division to underwrite the convention expenses.

In the interview, Mr. Wilson stated that last spring two

White House aides, Robert Finch and William Timmons, urged him to try to persuade the City of San Diego to bid for the Republican convention.

Mr. Timmons's name was among the 17 listed as "clearly necessary" by Senator Tunney and Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. Also among those listed were Mr. Wilson, Mr. Kleindienst, Mr. Merriman, Mr. Gerrity, Mrs. Beard, Peter Flanigan, another White House assistant, and the New York financial analyst Richard J. Ramsden, whom Mr. Flinigan hired to analyze I.T.T.'s settlement rationale.

Senator James O. Eastland, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said that there were no objections to the list during a

day-long executive committee meeting today. However, the number of additional witnesses who will be called is likely to be determined by the time restriction that the committee will vote upon tomorrow.

With two of the the committee's senior Republicans, Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska and Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, demanding that Mr. Kleindienst's nomination proceed immediately to a Senate floor vote, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the Democratic whip, proposed the compromise plan. If adopted tomorrow, it will extend the hearings until April 20 and will require the committee to render its judgment on Mr.

Kleindienst, in light of the I.T.T. charges, by April 27.

The list offered by Senators Tunney and Kennedy contained 42 more names of witnesses to be called if time permits. These included officials who Senator Tunney wishes to question in connection with a recent Life magazine article that accused the Justice Department of quashing a grand jury investigation of influential Republicans in San Diego.