

Kleindienst, ITT Cleared By Senate Judiciary Unit

Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee concluded yesterday that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. antitrust settlement last July was handled properly by the Justice Department and by acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

In a report for submission to the full Senate today, a majority of committee members also said 22 days of hearings failed to prove any links between that settlement and the ITT-Sheraton Corp.'s pledge to subsidize the Republican national convention.

Separate reports challenging these conclusions, however, are scheduled to be filed by Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.) and three other committee members, who voted against Kleindienst when the panel recommended approval last week of his nomination as

attorney general.

Tunney's report, it was learned, charges Kleindienst misled the public by claiming the ITT case was "handled and negotiated exclusively" by Richard W. McLaren, then chief of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division.

The committee report, and those of dissenting members, will form the basis for prolonged debate on the Kleindienst nomination which is scheduled to begin late this month or next.

The committee document, a draft of which was being circulated to members yesterday, contended the ITT settlement "was reached on the merits after arms-length negotiations between representatives of ITT and the Antitrust Division."

"Those negotiations and the settlement of ITT cases were not the product of political influence or promises of political favor from ITT,"

said this majority report, which was signed by committee chairman James O. Eastland (Dem.-Miss.).

The committee was unable to resolve authorship of the controversial memorandum, attributed to ITT lobbyist Dita Davis Beard, which caused reopening of the Kleindienst hearings in March after the committee had unanimously approved his nomination in February.

"Much conflicting testimony was offered concerning the authenticity of the memorandum purportedly authored by Mrs. Beard," the report said.

The memo, which linked the ITT settlement with the GOP convention pledge, was published last February 29 by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

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