

MAY 7 1972
Bayh Asks

Defect of

Kleindienst

SF Examiner

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) said yesterday that confirmation of Richard Kleindienst as attorney general in the face of key unanswered questions about the ITT settlement would "undermine public confidence in our government."

Bayh, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee whose two months of confirmation hearings on Kleindienst's nomination were the longest in Senate history, circulated a memo outlining 28 questions he said remained unanswered.

"Our search for the truth was hampered by a virtually impenetrable maze of convenient forgetfulness by key witnesses who did testify, failure to get testimony from other important witnesses, a screen of executive privilege thrown up by the administration and contradictory testimony," said Bayh.

"The hearings have ended with the cloud of suspicion which they were convened to remove having grown darker than when they began.

"To confirm the nominee under such circumstances would erode public confidence in our government and undermine the effectiveness of the office of attorney general."

He said the hearings failed to answer "the most fundamental question" — why the Justice Department dropped an antitrust suit and agreed to International Telephone and Telegraph's demand that it be allowed to keep the Hartford Fire Insurance Co. while divesting itself of other firms with assets totalling \$1 billion.