

Kleindienst Says Buckley Can Show U.S.I.A.'s Film

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By JOHN W. FINNEY
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WASHINGTON, March 31 — The Justice Department ruled today that under the law Senator James L. Buckley may show a United States Information Agency film on Czechoslovakia on his monthly television show in New York State.

Richard G. Kleindienst, Acting Attorney General, argued that while the law was "somewhat unclear," it seemed to permit domestic showing by members of Congress of material produced by the Information Agency.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, J. W. Fulbright wrote Mr. Kleindienst last Thursday protesting that Senator Buckley's showing of the film "Czechoslovakia 1968" would violate the pro-

visions of the 1948 law that established the agency. It was the intent of this law, the Arkansas Democrat argued, that material produced by the agency for dissemination abroad should not be disturbed domestically.

Senator Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, intends to include the film on Czechoslovakia, which has never been shown publicly in this country, on his monthly television program, "Senator Buckley Reports," this weekend. The program is carried on 12 stations, including New York City's Channel 11.

Court Action Asked

Senator Fulbright had asked the Justice Department to take court action to prevent the domestic showing of the film.

Arguing, in a four-page letter, that the U.S.I.A. film could be shown domestically by Senator Buckley, Mr. Kleindienst relied heavily on a section in the 1948 law providing for examination of the material by the press and members of Congress.

This section, he noted, provides that material disseminated abroad by the Information Agency "shall be available in the English language at the Department of State at all reasonable times following its release as information abroad, for examination by representatives of United States press associations, newspapers, magazines, radio systems and stations, and, on request, shall be made available to members of Congress."

Mr. Kleindienst said the "apparent purpose" of this section "was to make U.S.I.A. materials available to the American public, through the press and members of Congress."

This interpretation was disputed by some former lawyers and high officials of the Information Agency, who maintained that the Congressional intent of this section was to permit an examination of the type of information being disseminated by the agency.