

U.S. Delays ITT-Role Perjury Report

by Sanford J. Ungar

The Justice Department will not report until well after the presidential election on whether it believes perjury was committed during the marathon hearings last spring on Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst's nomination.

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At the time the transcript was sent to the Justice Department, Sen. John V. Tunney (D-Calif) urged a close look at several contradictions concerning the ITT affair, including the testimony of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Mitchell's name came up again last week, when Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) urged that the Justice Department zero in on the former attorney general's testimony last March 15 that he had not yet taken on any responsibilities in President Nixon's re-election campaign.

Bayh was reacting to a report in The Washington Post that Mitchell, even while running the Justice Department, had control over a secret Republican fund that was used to gather information about the Democrats.

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"If the allegations in the Post are accurate," Bayh said in a letter to Kleindienst, "we are confronted with the unfortunate but unescapable fact that the former Attorney General of the United States committed perjury before a

committee of the United States Senate."

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