

# ITT Case Won't Be Reopened

## Washington

Attorney General Elliot Richardson, after a review of the ITT merger case by the Justice Department's antitrust division, said yesterday he does not believe a reopening of the case would serve "the public interest."

Richardson's decision was contained in a letter to Senator John Tunney (Dem.-Calif.) made public during a senate judiciary committee confirmation hearing on the nomination of William D. Ruckelshaus as deputy attorney general.

"I do not believe a reopening at this time would give the government any greater relief than it obtained at the time of the settlement," Richardson said.

Tunney had asked Richardson to conduct a review of the controversial government antitrust settlement which allowed the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. to merge with the Hartford Fire Insurance Co.—one of the biggest corporate mergers in history.

Tunney asked Ruckelshaus at the hearing if special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, who is conducting his own investigation of the ITT affair, had the authority to prosecute anyone found to have illegally applied pressure on gov-

ernment officials to obtain the anti-trust settlement.

Ruckelshaus said that Cox "certainly would have the authority to recommend" that the case be reopened by the Justice Department, but he was unsure whether Cox could reopen the entire matter on his own. *United Press*