



Mr. Nixon could, for example, order the U.S. marshal not to serve the Supreme Court's opinion on him, Kleindienst said, pointing out that the marshal serves at the pleasure of the President.

In the final analysis, Kleindienst observed, the President will be faced with "a political question" concerning the tapes—one which will have to be resolved on the basis of political consideration.

The former Attorney General had these remarks on other subjects during the interview:

• At one point during his confirmation hearings to become Attorney General, the White House tried to dump him overboard but he was rescued by supporters in the Senate.

Kleindienst confirmed long-standing speculation that the White House was furious with him for requesting that his hearing be re-opened after the ITT controversy broke.

He said he had always wanted testimony at the hearing from ITT lobbyist Dita D. Beard, a central figure in the controversy, and was puzzled by the White House desire to keep her away.

But he was also critical of Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, especially Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), for turning his hearings "into a political trial."

• It was clearly improper for Ehrlichman to offer the job of FBI director to U.S. District Court Judge W. Matt Byrne Jr. while Byrne was still presiding over the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles, and that Ehrlichman has distorted the record by claiming publicly that the approach had Kleindienst's approval.

However, Kleindienst said that Byrne was also to blame, for initiating a second meeting with Ehrlichman after their first discussion.

At several points, Kleindienst, who described himself as a one-time "very forthright, aggressive advocate of this administration" stopped short of attacking the White House for its treatment of him. He said he is "not yet" prepared to discuss that matter publicly.

To make "subjective comments" about administration officials, even those who have been critical of him, Kleindienst said, would be "improper, unprofessional and the repudiation of the relationship I voluntarily entered into with these people."