

WXPost OCT 12 1973

Inquiry on Perjury Sought in ITT Case

Associated Press

The Justice Department has been asked to review a House panel's hearing record to see if there was perjury or obstruction of justice in a case involving International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. papers.

Aides said the House Commerce Committee's special investigations subcommittee decided Wednesday to refer "to the Department of Justice the record of the panel's inquiry

into the withholding and transfer of Securities and Exchange Commission files pertaining to ITT."

The case centers on a batch of ITT papers that the SEC sent to the Justice Department instead of making them available to the subcommittee. Former SEC Chairman William Casey, denying wrongdoing, testified he consulted with them—White House counsel John W. Dean III before making the transfer of the papers to the Justice Department.

The papers, that one SEC official termed "politically sensitive," were eventually made public by a Senate subcommittee. The papers dealt with alleged ITT contacts with top Nixon administration officials in the firm's successful drive to settle an antitrust case.

In settling the dispute with the Justice Department, an eventual agreement let ITT keep the Hartford Fire Insurance Co. in exchange for other divestitures in 1971.

Rep. Harley O. Staggers (D-W. Va.), chairman of the House committee and the investigations subcommittee, had asked Casey for access to the documents which the SEC had subpoenaed from ITT.