

ITT Case

A Nixon Choice In Deep Trouble

Washington

William J. Casey's nomination to be president of the Export-Import Bank ran into trouble yesterday in the Senate Banking Committee because of allegations that he tried to conceal information about the relationship between the Nixon administration and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. last year.

The committee agreed unanimously yesterday to delay action on the nomination indefinitely.

One staff member said that Senator John G. Tower of Texas, the committee's ranking Republican, might ask President Nixon to withdraw the nomination.

White House officials, who hold Casey in high regard, are trying to decide whether to fight for the nomination.

If the administration makes a full-scale effort to win confirmation for Casey, the aides said, the nomination could probably be pushed through the committee and the full Senate.

Casey, now undersecretary of State for economic affairs, said last night that he had talked with Tower and had reason to believe that the committee would approve his nomination, probably today.

The committee is scheduled to meet today, but it is deeply involved in last-minute legislation on which it hopes to finish action before the end of this session of Congress. Senators said that they did not know whether the Casey nomination would be called up for a vote.

Casey's problems stem from the days when he was chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, a position he held until last January.

In October, 1972, the

House commerce subcommittee on investigations for inquiring into the ITT affair and asked for documents from the SEC.

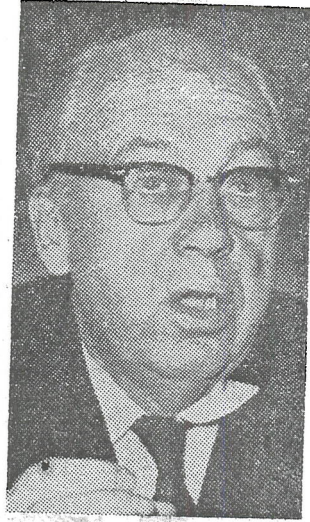
To prevent the subcommittee from gaining access to the documents in the month before the presidential election, Casey ordered 34 boxes of files, plus a manila folder containing 13 "politically sensitive" documents, to be transferred to the Justice Department, where they would be immune from subpoena.

The documents dealt with an antitrust case brought by the government against ITT. Settlement of the case brought allegations that ITT had received favorable treatment in return for the pledge of up to \$400,000 to the 1972 Republican national convention.

Casey repeatedly told the House subcommittee that the files and documents had been requested by the Justice Department.

But Ralph E. Erickson, who was deputy attorney general at the time, insisted, also under oath, that the Justice Department had not asked for the material and that, in fact, he had told Casey that the department had no need for it.

New York Times



WILLIAM CASEY
Before the Senate