

## Rodino Indicates He Seeks Data On Nixon's Role in I.T.T. Case

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23—The House Judiciary Committee is apparently seeking White House evidence to determine if President Nixon encouraged or knew of false testimony by former high Administration officials about the settlement of a Government antitrust action against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

The apparent focus of the impeachment inquiry's interest in the I.T.T. case was indicated in a statement issued today by the committee chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey.

Mr. Rodino confirmed in the statement that the committee asked the White House last week for a number of additional tape recordings and documents covering three areas of the impeachment inquiry—the alleged Watergate cover-up, political contributions by the dairy industry to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign, and the I.T.T. case.

### Tapes of 1972 Meeting

He said that the committee's request included any material bearing on "alleged misconduct" at the 1972 confirmation hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be Attorney General "in the course of testimony concerning the I.T.T. matter."

Although committee officials refused to specify the material being sought, it was considered likely that the request included the tape of an April 4, 1972, meeting of the President, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and the former White House chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman.

Mr. Haldeman testified last summer to the Senate Watergate committee that the April 4 meeting concerned the controversy over the Kleindienst nomination and the I.T.T. case. At the confirmation hearings, both Mr. Kleindienst and his predecessor, Mr. Mitchell, swore that there had been no White House intervention in the antitrust action.

The Judiciary Committee was also believed to be seeking access to a number of Administration documents described in a memorandum that Charles W. Colson, a former White House special counsel, sent to Mr. Haldeman on March 30, 1972, five days before the meeting in President Nixon's office.

In the memorandum, Mr. Colson warned of the existence of

a number of documents, which he outlined, that might "directly involve the President" in the I.T.T. settlement if they should emerge during the Kleindienst confirmation hearings.

### Order not to Appeal

Well-placed sources said they believed the impeachment inquiry staff already had a copy of the recording of an April, 1971, telephone conversation in which the President allegedly ordered Mr. Kleindienst, then the Deputy Attorney General, not to appeal to the Supreme Court a legal ruling favorable to I.T.T. in one antitrust suit.

Mr. Rodino said today that the White House had been advised that the latest request for tapes and documents was "comprehensive" and was not likely to be followed by additional requests in the three areas. The statement led to speculation that the April 4, 1972, meeting and the items outlined in the Colson memorandum were included in the request sent to the White House last week.

The central question involved apparently was whether Mr. Nixon knew that testimony in the Kleindienst hearings was false or misleading and, if so, did nothing to correct it. The April 4 tape could show whether the President was aware of the issues raised in the memo from Mr. Colson.

### Contradiction Indicated

Mr. Mitchell testified at the confirmation hearings that he had no knowledge of an I.T.T. pledge to help underwrite the cost of the 1972 Republican National Convention. The Colson memo warned that some of the documents contradicted Mr. Mitchell's testimony.

One of the documents cited by Mr. Colson was a memo from Herbert G. Klein, then the Administration's director of communications, notifying Mr. Haldeman and others—including Mr. Mitchell—of a "\$400,000 arrangement" with I.T.T. for the convention. The Colson memo said that the Klein document "of course precedes the date of the I.T.T. settlement."

Mr. Mitchell's attorney, William G. Hundley, said last August that he was "inclined to doubt that Mr. Mitchell read—or paid much attention to—copies of Herb Klein memos."

In reply to questions, Mr. Rodino said that the request was likely to be at least as extensive as the earlier one for 42 conversations, but that it did not number more than than 100 tapes.