

Lawyers Probing ITT Quit

Washington

The three lawyers who have handled the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. investigation for Watergate prosecutors from the beginning have quit, special prosecutor Leon Jaworski disclosed yesterday.

Spokesmen for Jaworski would neither confirm nor deny reports that the resignations were the result of a dispute over whether former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst should have been prosecuted for felony perjury.

He was permitted to plead

guilty to a misdemeanor charge arising out of false testimony at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee in the spring of 1972.

The chief of the ITT investigation force, Joseph Connolly, left the prosecutor's staff abruptly on Friday.

Yesterday morning, Jaworski named Richard J. Davis, another assistant prosecutor, to take Connolly's place. His brief public statement praised Davis but made no mention of his predecessor.

A few hours later, spokes-

men for Jaworski announced that two other members of the ITT investigation force — Lawrence A. Hammond and Paul R. Hoeber — had also resigned. As in Connolly's case, there was no exchange of letters with Jaworski.

Two other attorneys, who were not named publicly, have been "reassigned" to assist Davis in the ITT investigation, Jaworski's office said.

Connolly, Hammond and Hoeber were hired initially by Jaworski's predecessor, Archibald Cox, and since last summer have formed

Jaworski Staff

the nucleus of the investigation of the giant conglomerate and charges of misconduct in its dealings with federal agencies, including the White House.

The ITT investigators have been concentrating in part on allegations of misconduct stemming from Kleindienst's confirmation hearings.

Kleindienst testified he had not been pressured by the White House to drop the ITT case. But on May 16, he appeared in U.S. District Court and pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor count of failing to tell the commit-

tee that Mr. Nixon himself had once ordered him to do so, although the President later changed his mind.

Kleindienst, who has not yet been sentenced, left the Justice Department a year ago because several of his friends were targets of Watergate investigations.

The Washington Post, quoting unnamed sources, said yesterday that Connolly quit because he was unhappy with the decision to let Kleindienst plead to the technical misdemeanor rather than prosecute him for perjury, a felony.

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