

Fitzsimmons Says Kleindienst Lied

Washington

Teamsters president Frank Fitzsimmons said yesterday that former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst did not tell the truth when he testified that he worked through Fitzsimmons to help an accused insurance swindler get a lucrative Teamster contract.

"The only thing I can say is Mr. Kleindienst has a very large imagination," Fitzsimmons told a Senate subcommittee investigating the 1976 Teamsters' award of a \$23 million welfare fund insurance contract to Kleindienst's client, insurance promoter Joseph Hauser.

Hauser, now being sued by the Teamsters for allegedly siphoning off more than \$7 million in premiums for his own use, also appeared yesterday and took the Fifth Amendment ten times, saying he was refusing to answer "with real great, great reluctance."

Fitzsimmons rebutted Kleindienst's assertions at Tuesday's hearings that, as a private attorney in 1976, he phoned the Teamsters' leader in an effort to get a favorable consideration for the insurance bid tendered by a Hauser-backed firm.

Kleindienst had said he considered it understood "that as a result

of our friendship and my representations . . . that he would use any influence he had" in Hauser's behalf. He said Fitzsimmons phoned him back and said Hauser's bid "has a good chance."

Fitzsimmons acknowledged that he had had three telephone conversations with Kleindienst on the subject, but he denied that he had given any advance assurances on who would win the contract award.

"If Mr. Kleindienst has said this, he has made an untrue statement," he said.

To each in a series of questions about phone calls Kleindienst said had taken place, Fitzsimmons said, "I never had such a conversation with Mr. Kleindienst."

He also said he was not "a great personal friend" of Kleindienst, who received part of a \$250,000 fee for interceding on Hauser's behalf, and added:

"If anyone represented that friendship with me, whether real or imagined, would influence my decision as a trustee of the health and welfare fund, he would be completely wrong. Mr. Kleindienst's telephone call to me played absolutely no part in the ultimate award of the insurance contract."

Fitzsimmons also denied allegations that reputed mobster Allen Dorfman had a controlling influence over administration of the Teamsters Central States Health and Welfare Fund, which granted the Hauser contract.

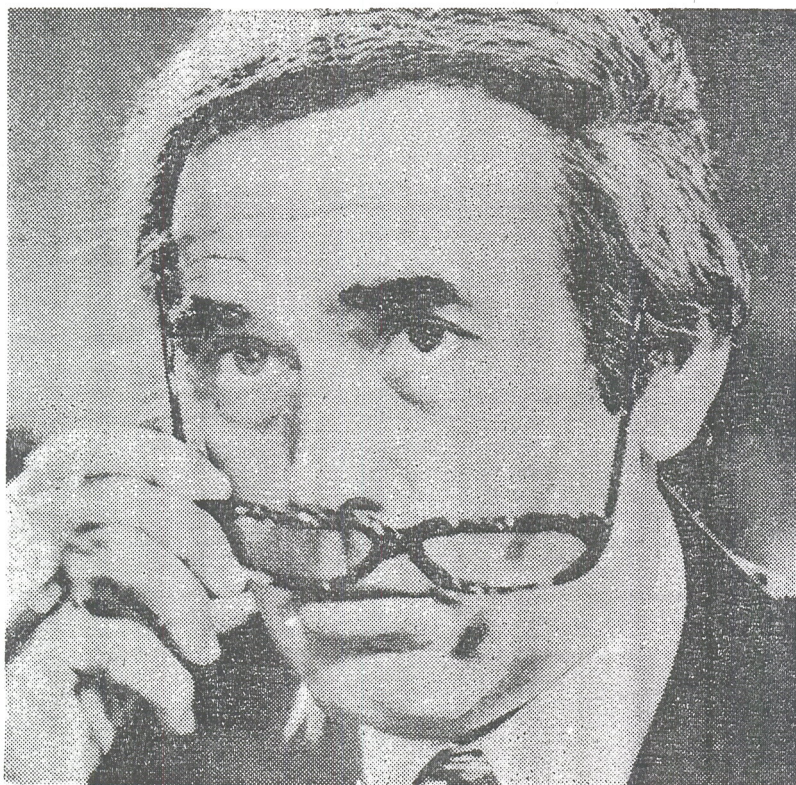
"I don't care if you send Jesus Christ to see Dorfman," Fitzsimmons shouted at one point, "It wouldn't have made any difference

on the award."

Appearing in his turn, Hauser said he was "unemployed," and said after each of ten questions that he declined to answer on grounds he might incriminate himself.

Several times, he added, "I decline to answer with real, great, great reluctance."

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INSURANCE PROMOTER JOSEPH HAUSER
'I decline to answer with real, great reluctance'