

[!Donate](#)[Home](#) | [Contact](#)**History Commons**UserName 

Not registered yet?

[About](#)[Timelines](#)[Blog](#)[Donate](#)[Volunteer](#)Search !! History Commons [Alert](#), Exciting News[Home](#) » [Context of '1969: ITT Negotiates with Nixon Aides to Avoid Antitrust Lawsuit'](#)**Context of '1969: ITT Negotiates with Nixon Aides to Avoid Antitrust Lawsuit'**

This is a scalable context timeline. It contains events related to the event **1969: ITT Negotiates with Nixon Aides to Avoid Antitrust Lawsuit**. You can narrow or broaden the context of this timeline by adjusting the zoom level. The lower the scale, the more relevant the items on average will be, while the higher the scale, the less relevant the items, on average, will be.

	1	2	3	4	5	
--	---	---	---	---	---	--

**1969: ITT Negotiates with Nixon Aides to Avoid Antitrust Lawsuit**

ITT logo. [Source: Private Line.com]

International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) acquires three smaller corporations, prompting the US Justice Department to file suits against ITT charging that the mergers violate antitrust laws. Between 1969 and April 1971, ITT officials meet with several Nixon administration officials, including Vice President Spiro Agnew; White House aides John Ehrlichman, Charles Colson, and Egil Krogh; Cabinet secretaries John Connally and Maurice Stans; Justice Department officials John Mitchell and Richard Kleindienst; and others, in attempts to persuade the

administration to drop the lawsuits. [THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC, 1981]

**Entity Tags:** John Ehrlichman, Charles Colson, Egil Krogh, John Connally, US Department of Justice, Richard Kleindienst, John Mitchell, Maurice Stans, International Telephone and Telegraph, Nixon administration, Spiro T. Agnew

**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate

**May 13, 1971: Nixon Orders ITT Deal—No Prosecution In Return for Campaign Donations**

President Nixon tells his aides H. R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman that they will need to dun even more money out of International Telephone and Telegraph, one of his re-election campaign's largest and most secretive donors (see 1969). ITT is embroiled in an antitrust lawsuit, and Nixon is working to get the suit settled in favor of ITT in return for secret campaign donations (see July 31, 1971). Nixon says that Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst "has the ITT thing settled," adding, "He cut a deal with ITT." Nixon also orders that the Justice Department antitrust lawyer who is pursuing the prosecution of ITT, Richard McLaren, be given his marching orders: "I want something clearly understood, and, if it's not understood, McLaren's ass is to be out of there within one hour. The ITT thing—stay the hell out of it. Is that clear? That's an order.... I do not want McLaren to run around prosecuting people. raising hell about conglomerates, stirring things up... I don't like the son of a b\_tch." McLaren will later drop the prosecution in return for a federal judgeship (see May-July 1971). [REEVES, 2001, PP. 324]

**Entity Tags:** US Department of Justice, H.R. Haldeman, International Telephone and Telegraph, John Ehrlichman, Richard Kleindienst, Richard McLaren, Richard M. Nixon

**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate, Elections Before 2000

**July 31, 1971: ITT Makes Favorable Deal with Justice Department** [Printer-Friendly View](#) [Email to Friend](#) [Increase Text Size](#) [Decrease Text Size](#)**Ordering**Date ascending **Time period****Email Updates**

Receive weekly email updates summarizing what contributors have added to the History Commons database

Email Address Here **Donate**

Developing and maintaining this site is very labor intensive. If you find it useful, please give us a hand and donate what you can.

[Donate Now](#)**Volunteer**

If you would like to help us with this effort, please contact us. We need help with programming (Java, JDO, mysql, and xml), design, networking, and publicity. If you want to contribute information to this site, click the register link at the top of the page, and start contributing.

[Contact Us](#)

The Justice Department reaches a deal with International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) to drop the government's antitrust lawsuit against the corporation (see 1969). The "consent decree" allows ITT to keep some of the firms with which it has attempted to merge. Perhaps coincidentally, ITT is allowed to merge with the firms that are relatively profitable, and dispose of the companies that will lose money for the corporation (see May 13, 1971). [THE PEOPLE'S ALMANAC, 1981]

**Entity Tags:** International Telephone and Telegraph, US Department of Justice  
**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate

#### February 22, 1972: ITT Lobbyist Memo Shows Collusion between ITT, GOP, and Justice Department

Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson receives a memo written by International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) lobbyist Dita Beard; the memo goes a long way towards proving that in return for hefty campaign contributions to the GOP, the Justice Department dropped its antitrust suit against the corporation (see 1969 and July 31, 1971). The memo, written on June 25, 1971 by Beard to ITT vice president Bill Merriam, is entitled "Subject: San Diego Convention." Beard indicated her distress at the possibility of someone leaking the fact that ITT had quietly contributed \$400,000 to the GOP for its 1972 convention in San Diego. Two of the few who know of the contribution, Beard wrote, were President Nixon and Attorney General John Mitchell. She asked whether the \$400,000 should be donated in cash or in services, then wrote: "I am convinced because of several conversations with Louie re Mitchell that our noble commitment has gone a long way toward our negotiations on the mergers eventually coming out as Hal wanted them. Certainly the president has told Mitchell to see that things are working out fairly. It is still only McLaren's mickey-mouse that we are suffering." Anderson doesn't know who "Louie" is, but he is sure "Hal" is Harold Geneen, ITT's president. ITT had announced a \$100,000 contribution, but the real amount is four times that. One of Anderson's aides, Brit Hume, interviews Beard, and during a night of heavy drinking and Beard's emotional outbursts, finds out that in May 1971, Beard had gone to a party hosted by Kentucky governor Louie Nunn, the "Louie" of the memo. Mitchell was at the party, and Beard was there to prime Mitchell as to what exactly ITT wants in return for its contribution and its assurance that it can secure San Diego as the GOP's convention site. According to Beard, the deal was hatched between herself and Mitchell at Nunn's party. Anderson quickly publishes a column based on the memo that causes a tremendous stir in Washington and the press. [ANDERSON, 1999, PP. 194-200] (In his book *The Secret Man*, Bob Woodward will give the date for Anderson's column revealing the Beard memo as February 19. This is apparently a typographical error.) [WOODWARD, 2005, PP. 37] The White House will successfully pressure Beard to disavow the memo (see Mid-Late March, 1972).

**Entity Tags:** Jack Anderson, Dita Beard, Brit Hume, Bob Woodward, Bill Merriam, Federal Bureau of Investigation, International Telephone and Telegraph, Richard M. Nixon, Harold Geneen, John Mitchell, Louie B. Nunn  
**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate

#### April 16, 1974: Jaworski Subpoenas 64 Watergate Tapes

Special prosecutor Leon Jaworski issues a subpoena for 64 formerly secret Watergate tapes (see July 13-16, 1973). The case will be decided in the Supreme Court (see July 24, 1974). [GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, 7/3/2007] Jaworski also demands information concerning:

- The possible "sale" of ambassadorships to large campaign contributors (see March-April 1972);
- The Nixon administration's settlement of the ITT antitrust lawsuit (see 1969);
- The White House's negotiation with milk producers to artificially inflate prices in return for campaign contributions (see March 23, 1971);
- President Nixon's notes on his daily news summaries;
- Former Nixon aide John Ehrlichman's records on his dealings with the "Plumbers" (see July 20, 1971);
- Other Nixon conversations concerning the Watergate cover-up; and

- The location of the tape containing the 18 1/2 minute gap (see November 21, 1973) during the time when Nixon claimed the tapes were in his custody. [REEVES, 2001, PP. 607]

**Entity Tags:** US Supreme Court, Leon Jaworski, John Ehrlichman, International Telephone and Telegraph, Nixon administration, 'Plumbers', Richard M. Nixon

**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate

#### May 16, 1974: Kleindienst Pleads Guilty to Misdemeanor Charge

Former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst pleads guilty to a misdemeanor charge resulting from his agreement not to pursue charges in the ITT corruption case (see 1969). Kleindienst admits to giving in to pressure from President Nixon and White House aide John Ehrlichman to drop the Justice Department's investigation of ITT. He pleads guilty to failing to testify accurately before the Senate. The judge in the case fines Kleindienst \$100 and gives him a 30-day suspended jail sentence, calling Kleindienst a man of the "highest integrity" but one who has "a heart that is too loyal." [NEW YORK TIMES, 2/4/2000]

**Entity Tags:** John Ehrlichman, International Telephone and Telegraph, US Department of Justice, Richard Kleindienst, Richard M. Nixon

**Timeline Tags:** Nixon and Watergate

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Timelines](#) | [Forum](#) | [Development](#) | [Donate](#) | [Contact](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)



Except where otherwise noted, the *textual* content of *each* timeline is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike](#)