Congressional Record - ITT and the Kleindienst Nomination

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TRANSACTION OF ROUTINE MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. At this time, in accordance with the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of routine morning business not to exceed 30 minutes, with speeches by Senators therein limited to 3 minutes.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ITT AND THE KLEINDIENST NOMINATION

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have just made an examination of political speech about a matter which is of paramount importance to the American people. For what we have done under previous Democratic administrations, I hold no brief for what is being done under the present Republican administration. But I have noted from time to time what the questions of the hearings now being held in the Judiciary Committee were being discussed, somehow or other it was always brought out that, "Well, it was worse under the Democratic administrations, but no political connection was being inferred."

As a matter of fact, I think that the Judiciary Committee is doing the only thing it can do at this time in view of the publicity which has been created covering a matter in which I use the word "seems"—advisedly—to have had some connection with the nomination of the nominee for Attorney General of the United States, a man who, by the way, is, in fact, the Attorney General at this moment, even though he is only acting in that capacity. However, as acting Attorney General, he has all the prerogatives and responsibilities which go with that job, excepting confirmation by the Senate.

I think that when it comes to politics, I have leaned just about as far backwards in this case as any Member on either side. I except one. I have been waiting for the facts to be brought forth so that evidence would be established before I am able to make a final judgment myself. It may be a little more difficult for a man who is not a lawyer to reach such a judgment. However, by the same token, because one is not a lawyer, it may be simpler also.

I have stated that as far as the hearings in the Judiciary Committee are concerned, they should be continued, but that only legitimate—and I emphasize the word "legitimate"—witnesses should be called in relation to the case as it affects the nomination of Mr. Richard Kleindienst.

I think that the American people demand that the legitimate witnesses be heard. And I think it is obvious if they are not heard, a cloud will be raised which will continue over Mr. Kleindienst's head. And may I say, Mr. President, to the Senate that these hearings were reopened at the express request of Mr. Kleindienst, who said that he wanted any cloud over his nomination removed. And I paraphrase his exact words a little freely but I believe, most accurately, I do not want to see a witch hunt. But I do want to see the truth brought out. And Mr. Kleindienst himself, in asking that the case be reopened, wanted the truth brought out. More questions are being raised than answers are being found.

There are other matters affecting this which are separate and apart from the nomination of Mr. Kleindienst, and they should be considered separate and apart.

The Foreign Relations Committee is going into the activities of multinational U.S. companies, many of them investing abroad at the express request of this Government. This is something which was brought about because of ITT and the Chilean revolutions, or the alleged revolutions.

The inquiry—and I use the word "inquiry" advisedly—into the multinational corporations, as mentioned in the Committee on Foreign Relations for at least 6 months to my knowledge, but because of certain allegations raised publicly in a column, the matter has come to a head. And the committee has agreed unanimously to continue an inquiry in depth. It will take some time.

The committee has agreed also that it will not issue reports, if my recollection is correct, during the course of the hearings, so that politics will not be helped or hurt as what the committee is endeavoring to do is concerned.

I understand—and I have not seen the stories as yet—that some new allegations, some new relevant questions were raised in the Baltimore Sun and the San Diego Union. I believe, in their issues of today.

Every legitimate question raised should be answered. Every legitimate witness should be called. Mr. Kleindienst has got to be settled one way or the other. We have Mr. Kleindienst's nomination on the calendar. I am holding it here awaiting a judgment from the committee. I will seek its advice and its counsel as to what it thinks should be done. And I cannot do that without thinking of a thing about it until and unless such counsel and/or advice is forthcoming.

There are other matters. I understand, apart from the Chilean allegations, which have come to light which may well be considered by the Committee on the Judiciary, and if those allegations have any substance they should be and must be considered.

But I, for one, dislike very much to have the word politics involved in a matter which is of the highest importance. So may I say that I deplo the politics involved. I am interested in the truth and the truth only. I would think all Senators seek that objective. I am interested in bringing these hearings to a conclusion one way or the other, but before that I want to see all the questions raised and answered. I want to see the legitimate witnesses called. In other words, I want to see Mr. Kleindienst getting a square deal because this is not helping him by having these hearings dragged out. It is not helping the Committee on the Judiciary, it is not helping the Senate, and it is not helping the country.

But questions have been raised and they must be answered, and the only way they can be answered is to call the appropriate witnesses, the appropriate legitimate witnesses, so that the questions can be asked and, if possible, the answers forthcoming.

So I would hope we would get away from the emotional aspects of this matter, and look at it as logically, and coldly, and impartially as we can. That is not too much to ask. It is not too much to ask the Committee on the Judiciary to meet more often, in the morning and in the afternoon, to bring this matter of the nomination, which is on the Senate Calendar, to a head so that on the basis of a thorough investigation and a calling, if at all the legitimate—witnesses for the word again "legitimate"—witnesses the Senate can then be in a position to pass on the advice, counsel, recommendation of the Committee on the Judiciary as to what it should do in its wisdom in disposing of this nomination.

Again, may I say that I hope we do not get involved in politics, what previous Democratic administrations have done in comparison with what is being done now, because as a Democrat I am willing to admit we have made our share of mistakes, and more—maybe in this particular field. But going back into past history does not solve the problem which confronts us today, and I hope some thing definitive will be coming forth shortly based on the stipulations I made, based upon the answers to allegations which have been made, and the hearing of all legitimate witnesses. As far as I am concerned, the Committee is a decision is reached, not in a political context, but in a fair and open-minded context, then I am prepared to consider taking up the nomination of Richard Kleindienst to be Attorney General.

Until that time occurs I am doing my best to keep an open mind until the evidence is in, all the questions pertinent to the nomination raised and answered, and all the legitimate witnesses heard.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. President, the distinguished majority leader has reacted to a speech which he has characterized as political. And I can understand that. I think, however, that he would be the first to admit that if there have been political speeches on this subject, they did not start on this side of the aisle. There have been a good many coming from the other side of the aisle. But I want to indicate that the distinguished majority leader has not himself addressed himself in any one way, and for that I want to express my appreciation. He has said before he realizes many of the matters that have