

Bell to Disclose Decision in ITT Probe

By Charles R. Babcock
Washington Post Staff Writer

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell is announce today whether the Justice Department will prosecute three officials of the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. on charges lying to the Senate nearly five years ago about working with the Central Intelligence Agency in Chile.

The decision on whether to file criminal charges is complicated, however—as it was last fall in the case of Helms—by intelligence community claims that national security secrets might be disclosed if a trial were held.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner met with Bell last Thursday to express his concerns about the possible prosecutions, sources said.

Helms was allowed to plead "no contest" last October to misdemeanor charges of failing to testify fully to the Senate about CIA operations in Chile.

Bell said then that protecting top-secret information from possible disclosure at a perjury trial was a factor in the decision to accept a lesser plea from Helms.

The five-year statute of limitations for prosecuting Edward S. Gerrity, ITT senior vice president, and Robert Berrallez, an ITT Latin American official in the early 1970s, runs out today. The time after which prosecution of ITT Chairman Harold S. Geneen would be barred is less than two weeks away.

"I know Monday's the last day on two of them," Bell said in a telephone interview Saturday evening. "I'll have

something to say about all three one way or the other Monday . . . The question is indictment or no indictment."

The term of the grand jury hearing evidence in the case expired last month without indictments being returned. But Bell said, "That doesn't make any difference. We can have agreement to proceed by information, a counterpart to an indictment."

Prosecutors can file charges by what is called an "information" without going to a grand jury.

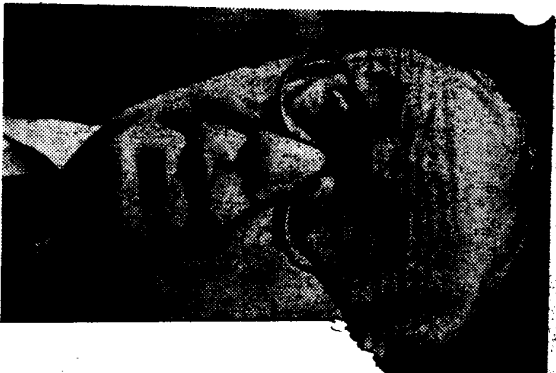
It was learned that in this case the potential defendants have waived their rights to have a grand jury consider and vote on whether to issue an indictment alleging a felony. Thus, it is possible that Bell is considering a perjury charge through an information, rather than a *Lassen* conviction.

of a misdemeanor, in at least one of the cases.

The testimony in question was delivered almost five years ago to the Senate subcommittee on multinational corporations, which was investigating ITT's alleged collaboration with the CIA to prevent the 1970 election of socialist Salvador Allende in Chile. Geneen, Gerrity and Berrallez testified under oath at the hearings. Possible perjury charges were referred from the Senate to the Justice Department in late 1975 after revelations that both the CIA and ITT had funded Allende's election opponents.

Allende won the election but was killed in a September 1973 coup. The perjury investigations have dragged on because Justice Department

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EDWARD S. GERRITY testified on Hill 5 years

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Attorney General to Tell Of Decision in ITT Probe

ITT, From A1

ment prosecutors tried to prepare cases against Helms and the ITT officials that would withstand defense motions for access to secret CIA documents, Justice Department officials said.

In November 1976, Harold V. Hendrix, former ITT public relations director in Latin America, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge of withholding information from the Senate subcommittee during his testimony.

Court papers filed at the time of his plea show that he had told the CIA he would be giving false testimony to the Senate. The papers also show he has been cooperating with prosecutors in the further investigations.

It could not be learned precisely what criminal charges might have been recommended in the remaining cases, or whether there has been plea

bargaining, as there was in the Helms case.

Attorneys for the ITT officials could not be reached for comment.

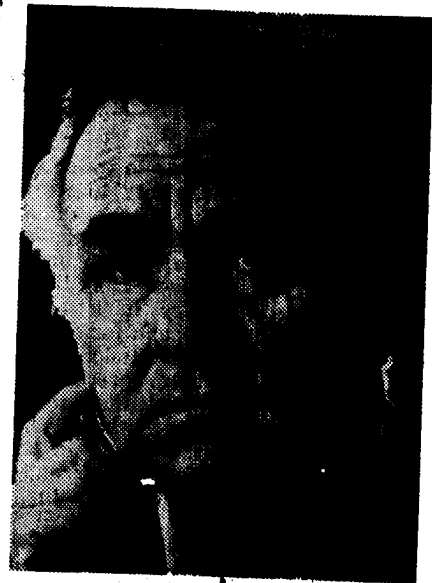
Bell declined to comment on what his decision would be except to say the dispositions "might not all be the same."

Others familiar with deliberations in the investigation, however, said the potential case against Gerrity appears stronger than that against Geneen.

In his March 22, 1973, testimony, Gerrity told the subcommittee that a proposed \$1 million ITT offer to the CIA in 1970 was to promote agriculture and housing in Chile, not to block Allende's election. Members of the subcommittee were openly skeptical of that explanation at the time.

Geneen testified on April 2, 1973, that he had twice offered funds to the U.S. government to be used against Allende that he said the CIA declined.

It was disclosed in 1975 that ITT



STANSFIELD TURNER

... told Bell of security concerns

had given at least \$350,000 to support Allende's opponents.

In his testimony, Geneen said, "Nor did ITT contribute money to any person or to any agency of any government to block the election of Allende."

He also testified that "ITT did not take any steps to block the election of Salvador Allende as president of Chile...."

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This Week's White House, Capitol Hill Agendas

Following are some of the major activities of this week's agenda for the White House and Capitol Hill.

WHITE HOUSE

President Carter will have an intense week of juggling domestic and foreign issues ranging from his energy package to the Middle East, the Panama Canal, Africa and disarmament.

The President has been meeting almost daily with legislators in an effort to push his energy package through Congress in a form similar to the one he submitted. Carter probably will continue his personal efforts this week.

The President has two bills on his desk awaiting signature: legislation that would provide a \$1.05-an-hour increase in the minimum wage over three years and a bill approving the Clinch River, Tenn., nuclear reactor project. The latter is believed to face an uncertain fate.

Negotiations are continuing both publicly and through diplomatic channels on attempts to get the Middle East peace talks resumed in Geneva. The problem blocking resumption of the talks centers on whether or not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization will be admitted as participants. State Department officials have expressed confidence the talks would resume in December. On another Middle East front, administration officials will be meeting this week with the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, Prince Saud, during his private Washington visit.

The troubles in South Africa are heating up to such a degree that the United States has said it is "deeply disturbed by the actions" and would have to review its relations with the white minority-led nation.

The results of Panama's referendum on the Panama Canal treaties should be on Carter's desk today.

American and Soviet negotiators are continuing work on a secret agreement on the future of disarmament talks between the two superpowers.

While Carter monitors world affairs at home, his Treasury Secretary will

be making personal contact with foreign officials. W. Michael Blumenthal departed Saturday on a two-week trip to meet finance ministers of seven Middle East and European nations. Last Wednesday,

While Blumenthal is stressing the dollar's stability abroad, Carter will be watching several home front economic indicators. The Commerce Department issues reports on durable goods and manufacturers shipments, export-import trade, balance of payments, housing vacancies and composite indexes of leading indicators. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will report on productivity and costs in business and manufacturing and labor turnover in manufacturing and major collective bargaining settlements. Treasury issues its monthly bulletin on average yields of long-term bonds.

Carter also will be conferring during the week with Attorney General Griffin Bell on the fate of former CIA Director Richard Helms. Bell has said he has reached a decision on whether to prosecute Helms in connection with congressional testimony the former spy chief gave regarding possible CIA involvement in the overthrow of Chile's Allende government.

CAPITOL HILL

An October adjournment does not seem likely for the legislators. Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.) has said he feels the Senate could dispose of all pending bills except conference reports on or before Nov. 5. If energy legislation and other bills do not reach the floor by that date, Byrd said, he will limit sessions to every third day and allow conferees to work without being interrupted by quorum calls and roll call votes.

Byrd said he had discussed that plan with House Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill who "seemed to think well of it," indicating the House may adopt a similar schedule.

Neither chamber meets today in observance of Veterans Day. The Senate takes up the energy bill Tuesday and possibly the agriculture disaster payments bill.

The tax bill sent to the Senate Friday is vastly different from President Carter's request. The bill contains no tax increases as Carter wanted and \$40 billion over eight years in tax credits and incentives to induce conservation and production of energy.

House-Senate conferees meet today to continue their work on the energy conservation bill. It is the first of four non-tax bills the 17-member conference committee will work on while awaiting energy tax changes and wrap up work on the President's energy program.

On Tuesday, the House continues on the supplemental appropriations bill and seven bills under suspension, including matters concerning the sexual exploitation of minors, prisoner exchange treaties, tax treatment extensions and urban mass transportation revision.

The appropriations bill includes money for the Clinch River nuclear breeder reactor, which Carter often has said he doesn't favor. The House beat back an effort to resurrect the

B-1 bomber in the bill, but Democrats are expected to reintroduce an amendment Tuesday. The Senate, which defeated the B-1 last month, will take up the appropriations bill this week.

On Wednesday, the House is expected to complete action on the Social Security finance amendments for 1977 and on Thursday and Friday take up the uniform bankruptcy law, radio-TV coverage of the House and Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

In committee sessions, two items of special interest to Carter will come up—all pipelines and reorganization. The Senate Energy Committee will consider the Alcan Pipeline and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee will consider Carter's second reorganization plan—both on Tuesday.

The House Armed Services Committee is briefed on Soviet ICBMs on Tuesday, and on Wednesday two House International Relations subcommittees consider U.S.-Soviet relations and the establishment of an African development foundation.

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