

# Mrs. Beard Calls Memo A 'Forgery'

DENVER, Colo., March 17

(AP)—Dita Beard, the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. lobbyist, said today in a signed statement that the controversial memo introduced into Senate Judiciary Committee hearings by columnist Jack Anderson "is a forgery, and not mine."

The statement, released by her attorney, David Fleming, and simultaneously by Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania in Washington, was given by Mrs. Beard from her room at Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital.

"I did prepare a memo at about the time indicated at the request of Bill Merriam who heads ITT's Washington office, to him, concerning plans for the Republican convention in San Diego," the statement said.

"However, it was not the memo Jack Anderson has put in evidence before the Senate."

Reached by telephone shortly after Mrs. Beard's statement was released, Anderson said she acknowledged before it was published that the memo was hers.

"She acknowledged it was genuine," he said.

On Feb. 24, when his associate Brit Hume interviewed Mrs. Beard, 53, in her office, she said she wrote the memo, Anderson said.

Asked what could have motivated the denial, Anderson said, "She's at the economic mercy of ITT."

The memo introduced before the senators has led to allegations that the Nixon administration made favorable settlements of antitrust action against ITT in return for a \$400,000 contribution for the GOP's San Diego convention.

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See BEARD, A10, Col. 1

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BEARD, From A1

Beard said in the statement. "I did not prepare it and could not have since to my knowledge the assertions in it regarding the antitrust cases and former Attorney General (John N.) Mitchell are untrue."

She said she had hoped to present her story first to the Senate investigators, but since they postponed indefinitely a scheduled Monday visit to her hospital room here she decided to issue the written statement.

Mrs. Beard, said she is "ready to testify from my bedside at any time."

She termed the memo supplied by Anderson as a "false and salacious document."

The text of Mrs. Beard's statement:

"I had much hoped that the Senate Committee would be coming to Denver on Monday, so that I would have the opportunity to tell the senators and the public the truth. However, since I am now told that for some reason the committee is not coming until later, I feel it is necessary that I make certain facts very clear at this time. These facts cannot remain unknown and unspoken any longer, while myself, my family, my friends, my company, Mr. Kleindienst and the Republican adminis-

tration are subjected to continued ridicule and embarrassment as a result of the lies that have been stated in the hearings.

"I did prepare a memo at about the time indicated, at the request of Bill Merriam, to him, concerning plans for the Republican convention in San Diego. However, it was not the memo Jack Anderson has put in evidence before the Senate. Mr. Anderson's memo is a forgery, and not mine. I did not prepare it and could not have since to my knowledge the assertions in it regarding the antitrust cases and former Attorney General Mitchell are untrue. I do not know who did prepare it, who forged my initials to it. How it got to Jack Anderson's hands or why. But I repeat, I do know it is not my memo and is a hoax.

"I want the opportunity to tell the Senate Judiciary Committee the true facts about this false and salacious document. I am ready to testify from my bedside at any time. I have done nothing to be ashamed of and my family and I—and in a greater sense the whole American Government—are the victims of a cruel fraud. I only wish I could make this statement firmer and stronger and still get it printed in the public press: Dita Beard."