

ITT Lobbyist's Doctor Will Testify Today

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Washington

The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing this morning to take testimony from the doctor of Dita D. Beard, the ailing lobbyist for the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Mrs. Beard is the central figure in the committee's inquiry into the Justice Department's decision last year to drop three anti-trust cases against the ITT.

The committee had previously planned to resume the hearings tomorrow, but the earlier session was called yesterday by James O. Eastland, committee chairman, after Mrs. Beard was subpoenaed Saturday night in a Denver hospital, and doctors said that she was too ill to leave.

'Miracle'

Dr. Victor Liszka of Arlington, Va., who has treated the 53 year-old ITT lobbyist for about nine years for a heart ailment, flew to Denver over the weekend and said that it would take "a miracle" for her to recover enough to comply with the subpoena to testify tomorrow.

He said that she was suffering from acute angina pectoris, a heart illness that produces chest pains.

The Judiciary Committee staff's announcement did not give the reason for the hearing today, but sources within the government said that Liszka would tell the senators when Mrs. Beard might be well enough to testify.

The controversy was touched off last week by the publication by the syndicated columnist Jack Anderson of a memorandum purportedly written last June 25 by Mrs. Beard to a superior in ITT.

LINK

The document linked the company's "noble commitment" of \$400,000 to the 1972 Republican national convention in San Diego with a favorable Justice Department settlement of three pending antitrust suits against ITT. The cases were settled by the government a month later.

Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst requested hearings to permit him to testify. Last week he branded the memorandum "completely false," but some

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senators insisted that a Senate vote on his confirmation as attorney general be delayed until Mrs. Beard explained the memorandum.

Airline industry sources said yesterday that Mrs. Beard apparently became ill on a flight Thursday morning from Washington to Denver.

ADMISSION

In Denver, Mrs. Beard spent some time at the home of an old acquaintance, Robert B. McCall. On Friday she got in touch with Dr. Dave T. Garland, an osteopathic physician, and he admitted her to the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital at about 7 p.m. Garland said that she was suffering from "an impending coronary thrombosis."

Doctors permitted FBI agents to serve a Judiciary Committee subpoena on her at about 9:30 p.m. Liszka said in an interview that unidentified officials in Washington agreed in advance that she would not have to appear tomorrow.

Liszka added that Mrs. Beard might be in the hospital for another week.

WITNESSES

The scheduled first witnesses tomorrow are Kleindienst, Richard W. McLaren, chief of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division when the cases were settled, and Felix G. Royhatten, a New York investment banker who is a director of ITT. None of them was requested yesterday to appear today.

Already, the witness list has swelled to the point that at least another week of hearings will be required.

Among those expected to testify are former Attorney

General John N. Mitchell; Anderson; Brit Hume, one of Anderson's investigators; Reuben B. Robertson III, an associate of Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate; Harold S. Geneen, president of ITT; W. R. Merriam, head of ITT's Washington office, and three "mystery witnesses" promised by Eastland.

EXPERT

Eastland has also discussed calling Richard J. Ramsden, a New York investment banker who was hired as an "independent expert" to advise the government on how to settle the case. Ramsden was hired through Peter M. Flanigan, an aide to President Nixon.

Kennedy G. Elzinga, McLaren's former economic adviser in the Justice Department, said yesterday that it was strange that he and the Federal Trade Commission's former chief economist, Willard F. Mueller, had not been consulted before the antitrust case was settled.

Elzinga, who is now an associate professor of economics at the University of Virginia, said "every economist I have talked to about the settlement thinks it's very weak from the government's point of view."

Mueller, who is now a professor at the University of Wisconsin, had testified for the government as to the anti-competitive impact of certain ITT acquisitions. He said the Justice Department's settlement "doesn't make economic sense" and that one aspect of it was unprecedented. He referred to the government's abandonment of its suit to sever the Grinnell Corp. from ITT at a time when the case was pending before the Supreme Court.