

Dita Quoted

A Nixon Role In ITT Case
Told at Hearing

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

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Brit Hume, an investigator for syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, brought a stunned silence to the packed Senate Judiciary Committee chamber when he told about Mrs. Beard's alleged account of her conversation with Mitchell at a Kentucky Derby party at the Kentucky Governor's mansion last May 1.

"The Attorney General said the White House, even the President, had called and said 'Lay off ITT,'" Hume, 28, quoted her as saying. Hume said that he was taken aback, and asked "The President said that?" According to Hume, Mrs. Beard replied "No, it was more like: 'Make a reasonable settlement.'"

A few moments later Senator James O. Eastland, chairman of the committee, interrupted the hearings to ask, "was that the President of the United States?"

"Yes," Hume replied.

On Tuesday, former Kentucky Governor Louis B. Nunn told the committee that Mitchell fended off Mrs. Beard's efforts to discuss the ITT case. He added that the 53-year-old mother of five had been drinking and that she collapsed from the effects of alcohol and heart trouble shortly after the conversation.

Mrs. Beard is hospitalized in the coronary ward of a Denver hospital and doctors have declared her not well enough to testify.

The introduction of President Nixon's name into the testimony for the first time in connection with the decision to settle the cases appeared certain to broaden the inquiry far beyond the purpose initially stated by

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Attorney General-designate Richard G. Kleindienst, who had requested the hearings.

Kleindienst called for the hearings to dispell "a cloud over my head" caused by charges that he had misled the public regarding his role in the settlements. Now, it appears certain that the hearings will range into all aspects of the allegations that ITT agreed to make a several hundred thousand dollar contribution to the 1972 Republican National Convention in exchange for a favorable settlement of the antitrust suits.

Eastland said after yesterday's session that the hearings would extend at least another week, because "these charges have to be explored." He said that the committee had not yet decided if it would attempt to reach into the White House to compel Peter M. Flanigan, a presidential assistant whose name has been mentioned frequently during the hearings, to appear and testify.

Mitchell, meanwhile, issued the following statement:

"The testimony attribut-



BRIT HUME
Aide to Anderson

ing statements to me involving the President is totally false and without foundation. I categorically deny that I ever had any such conversation or that I ever made any such statement anywhere or at any time. The President has never, repeat never, made any request to me directly or indirectly concerning the settlement of the ITT case and I took no part in that settlement."