

LOBBYIST DENIES PLAN ON SETTLING I.T.T. TRUST ACTION

MAR 11 1972

Mrs. Beard Says No G.O.P.
Pact Was Made—Mitchell
Accused by Columnist
NYTimes

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

DENVER, March 10—A lawyer for Mrs. Dita Davis Beard, the ailing Washington lobbyist for the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, said today that she "categorically denies" that any arrangement had been made to settle the Justice Department's antitrust suits against the company in exchange for a large cash donation to the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Mrs. Beard, who has been in the intensive care unit of the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital since she was admitted there last Friday night, is one of the central figures in the investigation triggered by the columnist Jack Anderson's charges of a deal between the corporate conglomerate and the Nixon Administration.

[In Washington, Mr. Anderson, in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, accused former Attorney General John N. Mitchell of lying when he denied knowing about a financial guarantee by I.T.T. to the convention.]

Beard Memos Reported

Mr. Anderson produced copies of a memorandum for the committee that he said Mrs. Beard had sent her superiors, detailing an arrangement between the Justice Department and I.T.T. in which \$400,000 was to go to help pay expenses for the Republican convention in exchange for a favorable settlement out of court of antitrust actions pending against the company.

Today, David W. Fleming, a lawyer from Van Nuys, Calif., told a news conference at the hospital that he worked out the statement with Mrs. Beard this afternoon. She has been confined at the hospital with a heart ailment.

Mr. Fleming said she also denied that Mr. Mitchell had ever told her anything about President Nixon's having commented on the case.

'An Absurd Circus'

He said she was anxious to testify before the Judiciary Committee "in order to put at rest false rumors, innuendos and outright lies." The committee is holding hearings on the qualifications of Richard G. Kleindienst, who was named by President Nixon to succeed Mr. Mitchell as Attorney General.

Mr. Fleming quoted Mrs. Beard as calling the hearing "an absurd circus."

Mr. Fleming, who refused to answer any further questions, left the matter of the authenticity of the memorandum un-

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PLAN ON I.T.T. SUIT

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clear. The prepared statement made only passing reference to it, calling the document "the alleged memorandum obtained by Mr. Anderson."

Earlier, Dr. Victor L. Liszka, Mrs. Beard's personal physician, who flew to Denver to examine her last Saturday, told the committee she never meant to imply in her memorandum that there was any connection between the settlement of the Justice Department action and contributions to the Republican convention.

The statement today read in part:

"Mrs. Beard categorically denies the allegation that there was ever an arrangement between I.T.T. and the Administration involving favorable treatment of the antitrust actions in exchange for a pledge to help underwrite expenses for the Republican convention in San Diego by the Sheraton Hotel chain, a subsidiary of I.T.T.

Denies Nixon Link

"She further emphatically denies that former Attorney General John Mitchell ever told her that President Nixon commented about, took part in or requested a settlement of the I.T.T. Justice Department suits.

"Mrs. Beard is hoping to give testimony at the earliest possible occasion from her bedside or if that's not possible then pursuant to written interrogatories under oath to the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"She feels his inquiry into the qualifications of Attorney General designate Kleindienst and I quote her, an absurd circus engendered by personal ambitions and extreme opportunism of a few people."

Dr. Dave T. Garland and Dr. L. M. Radetsky, Mrs. Beard's two osteopathic physicians at the hospital, list her as still in "serious condition." Dr. Garland noted that because of a period of chest pains and heart irregularity yesterday, "we are reticent to set a specific time for interview here by committee members."

He added, however, that the doctors felt that written answers to written questions by the committee "might be in the realm of possibility early next week."

Mrs. Beard flew to Denver March 2, suffering an attack of angina pectoris on the plane that was treated by stewardebuses with oxygen. She also took nitroglycerin tablets.

At the time she was being sought by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who had a subpoena ordering her to appear before the committee. She entered the hospital Friday after further attacks.