



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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To: W. R. Merriam
From: D. D. Beard
Subject: San Diego Convention

Date: June 25, 1971

I just had a long talk with EJC. I'm so sorry that we got that call from the White House. I thought you and I had agreed very thoroughly that under no circumstances would anyone in this office discuss with anyone our participation in the Convention, including me. Other than permitting John Mitchell, Ed Reinecke, Bob Haldeman and Nixon (besides Wilson, of course) no one has known from whom that 400 thousand commitment had come. You can't imagine how many queries I've had from "friends" about this situation and I have in each and every

This is a photo of the memo published by Jack Anderson which was disowned by ITT lobbyist Dita Davis Beard

MAR 18 1972

Dita Says Memo Is a Hoax, Fraud

SF Examiner

Associated Press

Denver

SF Chronicle

Dita D. Beard, the ailing lobbyist for ITT and a key witness in the Senate investigation involving her company, said yesterday the memorandum published by columnist Jack Anderson is a fraud and a hoax.

Anderson has said the interoffice memorandum, allegedly written by Mrs.

Beard, links the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust suits against ITT with the conglomerate's pledge to the city of San Diego to help it obtain next summer's Republican national convention.

Anderson said the original International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. memorandum which Mrs. Beard disowned has been turned over to the Justice Department.

In a statement issued through her lawyer, David Fleming, and simultaneously in Washington by Senate Republican leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the hospitalized Mrs. Beard said:

"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 the former Attorney General (John) Mitchell are untrue.

"I do not know who did prepare it, who forged my initial to it, how it got into Jack Anderson's hands or why. But, I repeat, I do know it is not my memo and is a hoax."

HEART

Mrs. Beard, 53, is hospitalized with a heart ailment.

In Washington, Anderson said Mrs. Beard acknowledged before he published columns relating to the memorandum that the memorandum was genuine.

Asked what could have motivated the denial, he replied: "She's at the economic mercy of ITT."

The Senate Judiciary Committee opened a special investigation in the charges made by Anderson March 2 at the request of Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst.

Kleindienst was nominated to succeed Mitchell as Attorney General. Mitchell resigned March 1 to head President Nixon's reelection campaign. Kleindienst's nomination was approved by the committee but has been

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Her Statement From Hospital

Dita Says Memo a 'Hoax, Fraud'

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held up in the Senate because of the investigation.

Mitchell, Kleindienst and Harold S. Geneen, ITT president, testified during the first 11 days of the hearing that there was no connection between the billion dollar settlement and ITT's convention commitment.

A Senate subcommittee had planned to travel to Denver next week to take bedside testimony from Mrs. Beard, but yesterday the trip was postponed indefinitely because of Senate floor business Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs. Beard said she felt it was necessary "to make certain facts very clear at this time" because the subcommittee would not be visiting her until later.

"These facts cannot remain unknown and unspoken any longer, while myself, my family, my friends, my company, Mr. Kleindienst and the Republican administration are subjected to continued ridicule and embarrassment as a result of the

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lies that have been stated in the hearings," she said in the statement.

Mrs. Beard said she did prepare an interoffice memorandum to W. R. Merriam, head of ITT's Washington office, concerning plans for the GOP convention in San Diego.

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

She said she is ready to testify at her 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," she said.

Committee chairman James O. Eastland, (Dem-Miss.), said after the subcommittee trip was postponed it might be scheduled for late next week if arrangements could be made

with Mrs. Beard's doctors.

He also said the full committee hearings in Washington would resume Wednesday, but could possibly begin Tuesday if a witness can be scheduled.

Anderson said he could understand "the terrible pressure she is under with her five children and mounting hospital bills.

In testimony before the committee last week, Brit Hume, and Anderson associate, said Mrs. Beard identified the memorandum as hers when he confronted her with it February 23.

Hume also said Mrs. Beard later called him to explain the memo and to give him further details in a two-hour interview.

Anderson said the manner in which he obtained the memo, which he has declined to disclose, makes him positive of its authenticity.

Mrs. Beard's lawyer, Fleming said he thinks he knows how the Anderson memo originated but "we're not going to say anything until we have absolute proof."

He also attributed partisan political motives to the subcommittee's postponement to the hospital bedside of his client.

"They (the Democrats) obviously don't want her to testify," Fleming said. "It's totally political. They're frankly afraid of hearing the truth about that phony, fake, forged memo."

SUITS

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass), who has led the Democratic attack on the Justice Department's settlement of the antitrust suits during the investigation, said Mrs. Beard's statement makes it imperative that she be questioned by the committee as soon as her health permits.

"If the allegations prove true, then the ITT officials and the attorneys who have been in constant touch with Mrs. Beard... have done a disservice to the Congress, to the American people and especially to Mr. Kleindienst by withholding this material flatly contradictory testimony before the committee," said Kennedy.