

ITT Discovers 'Genuine' Memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. says it has discovered the "genuine" memo by lobbyist Dita Beard, but an associate of columnist Jack Anderson calls the ITT claim absurd.

ITT said Monday that it has turned over to the Senate Judiciary Committee "important new evidence that the so-called Beard memorandum of Mr. Jack Anderson was a fraud."

The committee is investigating suggestions by Anderson that ITT won favorable settlement of an antitrust action by pledging heavy financial support for the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

TO SUPPORT the suggestions, Anderson released copies of a memo he attributed to Mrs. Beard of ITT's Washington office, written June 25, 1971.

Eighteen days after Anderson released the memo, an affidavit attributed to Mrs. Beard described the memo as a fraud and a hoax.

ITT said Monday that it discovered, in the last few days, a memo by Mrs. Beard dated June 25, 1971. The firm said in a statement: "The genuine Beard memorandum is inconsistent with the Anderson memorandum."

Anderson said the latest memorandum has no resemblance to the original memo-

randum published in his column.

"The memo we published—and I want to stress that we authenticated it very carefully—was stamped 'personal and confidential' and wound up with the admonition: 'Please destroy this, Huh.'" Anderson said.

"They (ITT)," he said, "keep coming up with these last-minute surprises which contradicts their own sworn testimony until they are no longer worthy of belief."

At the same time, ITT released copies of affidavits from Susan Lichtman, Mrs. Beard's former secretary; William R. Merriam, head of the Washington ITT office, and ITT security administrator Russell J. Tagliareni, a former FBI agent.

BRIT HUME, the Anderson associate who said he obtained the memo and interviewed Mrs. Beard twice about it, rejected ITT's claim.

Mrs. Beard, who has been hospitalized in Denver for several days, is expected to be released late this week or over the weekend. A judiciary subcommittee plans to question her in the hospital Wednesday.

The inquiry was instituted at the request of acting Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst, who said he wanted to disprove Anderson's allegations. Anderson had disputed Kleindienst's claim that he had taken no part in the settle-

ment.

Kleindienst, a former deputy attorney general, has received unanimous committee approval to succeed John N. Mitchell as attorney general.

SENATE Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield has said the full Senate will not vote on Kleindienst's nomination until the committee completes its probe.

Meanwhile, Anderson protested Monday that the memo he gave the committee was turned over to the FBI without his consent. He asked that the panel get the document back and then hold onto it.

And, Anderson said in a letter to committee Chairman James O. Eastland, D-Miss.:

"The Justice Department can hardly be considered a neutral party in this matter when the fitness for office of its highest official is the subject of the investigation."

In her affidavit, Mrs. Lichtman said a memo she typed for Mrs. Beard last summer contained some of the material in the version printed by Anderson but without the portions linking the ITT convention pledge to the antitrust settlement.