

24 March 1972

NEW ORLEANS

STATES - ITEM

Beard Note Genuine?

FBI Unsure About Memo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI said Friday it is unable to prove so far that a memorandum attributed to a corporate lobbyist and published by columnist Jack Anderson is a phony and said there are some indications it is genuine.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the memorandum, allegedly written by Mrs. Dita Beard, was prepared on a typewriter carrying ink very similar to ribbons on her typewriter in the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.'s Washington office.

Comparisons of the published memo and others presumably supplied by ITT to the FBI also showed similarities in margin and paragraph indentations, Hoover said in a highly technical five-page report to chairman Sen. James O. Eastland of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The committee is holding hearings on President Nixon's nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general.

Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III, D-Ill., in a Senate speech Friday called on Nixon to withdraw the nomination—to spare further embarrassment to his administration and “to all our institutions.”

The Beard memorandum drew a connection between the out-of-court settlement of three government-filed antitrust suits against ITT and the conglomerate's commitment to underwrite costs of the Republican National Convention for at least \$200,000.

Hoover's report, requested by Eastland, was notable as much for what it did not say as for its very limited conclusion. Hoover said his analysis is continuing.

There was no mention of whether a second document that ITT claims Mrs. Beard wrote is genuine and no judgment on whether the original Beard memo was prepared on the specific typewriter belonging to her.

STEVENSON, in asking Nixon to withdraw Kleindienst's nomination, said:

“The President can spare further embarrassment—not just to his administration, but to all of our institutions of self-government—by withdrawing the nomination,” Stevenson said on the Senate floor.

He said an inquiry into the Kleindienst nomination has cast doubts upon his character and fitness which can only be resolved by a full-blown investigation by the Senate Judiciary Com-

mittee if Nixon declines to withdraw his name from consideration.

The committee has been investigating charges of improper conduct by Kleindienst in the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust suits filed against International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.

Kleindienst was deputy attorney general at the time and Richard W.

McLaren, now a federal judge in Chicago, was chief of the Justice Department's antitrust division.

Stevenson said he has now learned that Nixon administration officials lied to him about reasons for the speedy confirmation of McLaren's judicial appointment last December.

McLaren has figured prominently in the three weeks of hearings held so far on the Kleindienst nomination.