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URGENT

Dita Beard

DENVER AP - Dita D. Beard, the ailing lobbyist for International Telephone & Telegraph Co., categorically denied Sunday that she wrote the controversial memorandum, published by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, that purportedly linked an ITT antitrust settlement with a donation to the Republican National Convention.

In a statement given to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee in her hospital room here, Mrs. Beard repeated her previous denials and went into detail on her meeting with Anderson's assistant, Brit Hume.

The subcommittee, headed by Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich., held an extraordinary hearing in a room in the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital where Mrs. Beard has been recovering from a heart ailment for the past month.

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Beard add

DENVER Dita Beard a202 add: month.

"I did not write, compose or dictate the entirety of the memorandum which Mr. Hume presented to me in the Washington office of ITT last month," she said in her statement. "I do recall similar language in the first part of that memorandum, which I wrote some time in late June or early July in 1971, at the request of Mr. Merriam."

W.R. Merriam is head of ITT's Washington office.

She concluded her statement by saying: "I want this committee and the world to know that the Anderson memorandum is not my memorandum, that I am innocent of any wrongdoing and that I shall spend the rest of my life, for however long that might be, in an unceasing effort to find out who did this to me and why."

The Senate committee has been holding hearings into the charges made by Anderson that an out of court settlement of an antitrust case against ITT was linked with a purported \$400,000 guarantee by the giant conglomerate to a San Diego, Calif., vivic committee that is raising money to help cover expenses of next summer's Republican National Convention there.

AKCTING Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst asked the committee to hold the hearings to answer the Anderson charges.

Kleindienst's nomination to succeed John N. Mitchell as attorney general earlier was confirmed unanimously by the committee, but is now pending before the full Senate until the hearings have been concluded.

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URGENT

Beard Bjt No Pickup 430 Two Takes Total 600 up

By MIKE SHANAHAN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER AP - Lobbyist Dita D. Beard has denied for the first time under oath authorship of the controversial memorandum linking favorable settlement of a Justice Department antitrust case against the International Telephone - Telegraph Corp. to a contribution to the Republican national convention.

Mrs. Beard said Sunday that the memo, published by columnist Jack Anderson, was part of a massive conspiracy to discredit her.

Testifying from her hospital bed to a special Senate subcommittee the ITT lobbyist said she was in a state of total despair at the time she was confronted with the memo by an Anderson associate, Brit Hume, in late February.

"I felt certain that someone was deliberately putting me in a position to be used as a vehicle to embarrass the administration, embarrass my company and to destroy me," Mrs. Beard said.

The inter-office memo linked the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust suits pending against the conglomerate to its commitment to pay at least \$200,000 toward the Republican National Convention next August in San Diego, Calif.

In her formal statement, released to reporters as the

The inter-office memo linked the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust suits pending against the conglomerate to its commitment to pay at least \$200,000 toward the Republican National Convention next August in San Diego, Calif.

Five members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, considering the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general, questioned Mrs. Beard.

Kleindienst, now acting attorney general, was deputy attorney general at the time of the antitrust settlement.

Since March 3, the 53-year-old Mrs. Beard has been hospitalized with what her doctors say is a serious heart ailment.

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Beard Insert

DENVER Beard Bjt, a219 insert after 8th graf: ailment.

She waited 18 days from the day the memo was published by Anderson to denounce it as a fraud and hoax, in a statement issued through her attorneys in Denver March 17.

She told the senators that except for one earlier statement she had said nothing publicly because she felt they "must have my words as to the truth and whole truth of this matter."

Mrs. Beard said, "I shall spend the rest of my life, for however long that might be, in an unceasing effort to find out who did this to me and why."

As they: 9th graf  
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As they questioned her, the Senators were seated at an L-shaped table facing her bed in a corner of assembly room No. 1 on the first floor of the hospital.

Visible to them was an oscilloscope constantly recording the frequency and strength of her heartbeat on a five-inch green television screen.

Tubes ran from her nose and wires attached to her body ran to the oscilloscope.

Next to her bed was a cart full of equipment which a hospital official said her doctor could use to deal with any heart emergency.

In her formal statement, released to reporters as the senators entered the hospital Mrs. Beard flatly denied that she wrote the Anderson-published Memo.

She said Hume first approached her by phone and asked for a meeting. On Feb. 23, she and two ITT officials were confronted in the company's Washington office with the memo.

Before reading all of the memo, Mrs. Beard said, she acknowledged an initial D following her name on the first page.

"At that moment I had no reason to assume that this was not a memorandum written by me," she said.

MORE

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Special Wirephoto Advisory

EDITORS: Pictures of Mrs. Dita Beard, testifying before the Senate subcommittee from her hospital room in Denver are expected about 3 p.m., EST. The pictures are from a pool and will be expedited.

AP Photos

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URGENT

DENVER Take 2 Beard Bjt a219: she said. 430

She told senators that when Hume asked if the initial was hers, "I acknowledged that it looked like my little d." Later, after checking her files for a copy of the memo and examining it line by line, Mrs. Beard said she told Hume she could not explain references to any fix of the antitrust case.

After that encounter, Mrs. Beard said Hume called and requested another interview. She asked and was refused permission by her boss, Edward J. Gerrity Jr., to turn Hume away.

"He Gerrity insisted I meet with Hume and tried to assure me that I could somehow explain it.

"I told him, 'I couldn't.' He told me, 'You've got too'."

Mrs. Beard said she went ahead with the second Hume interview. She quoted the 28-year-old Anderson aide as saying someone was trying to set her up.

"Who in their right mind would write something like this,"

Mrs. Beard said she told Hume. "This isn't mine."

Hume testified before the committee in Washington that Mrs. Beard told him during that session: "I wrote it, of course, I wrote it."

On hand for her testimony in Denver, Hume repeated that and said, "I hesitate to criticize Mrs. Beard. She's under more pressure and in a tougher spot than anyone else in this whole controversy."

Hume has quoted Mrs. Beard as saying President Nixon ordered former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell to go easy on ITT before the antitrust case was settled last July. Hume said Mrs. Beard told him she learned that at a confrontation with Mitchell at the Kentucky Derby last May.

Mrs. Beard told the group Sunday she recalled that during her conversation with Hume there was some talk about the Derby and a conversation with Mr. Mitchell.

She said when Hume called back the next day to ask about a deal for the antitrust suits, she told him the idea was absurd.

Present during the first 90-minute session in the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital were Democratic Sens. Philip Hart of Michigan, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, John V. Tunney of California and Quentin Burdick of North Dakota. The lone Republican was Marlowe Cook of Kentucky.

Sen. Edward Gurney, R-Fla., was scheduled to arrive in time for a second afternoon session.

Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, R-Md., was due late Sunday.

Others present in the room were Mrs. Beard's doctor, L.M. RADetsky, her two lawyers, David Fleming and Harold White, and three Senate staff members.

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Beard Add

DENVER Beard Bjt a219-225 add: staff members.

The senators also were given a new affidavit from Mrs. Susan Lichtman, Mrs. Beard's secretary at the time the memo allegedly was written, June 25, 1971.

In an earlier statement, Mrs. Lichtman said she could not remember references to the antitrust settlement or a link with the San Diego convention in anything she typed on that day.

Later, the possibility of a third memo emerged when she told reporters from her home in Toronto, Ohio, that she did remember some portions in the Anderson document.

In her new affidavit, unveiled in the hospital room, Mrs. Lichtman singled out the misspelling of the word commitment in four different places of the Anderson memo and cited that as further proof she could not have prepared it.

Last week, the FBI reported that the Anderson memo was prepared on a typewriter in the ITT office.

In her statement, Mrs. Lichtman says, "The typewriter I used at my desk was an IBM Executive model. There was a mixup on typewriters that week."

She recalled arranging to borrow a typewriter from another part of the office to type invitations to a golf tournament on June 25.

ITT has issued a document it calls "the genuine Beard memorandum," on the subject of the San Diego convention, but drawing no link to the antitrust settlement.

Mrs. Lichtman said she had no memory of typing that document either, despite an impression to the contrary in her first affidavit.

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URGENT

Beard Bjt Lead 340, Two Takes Total 610

By MIKE SHANAHAN

Associated Press Writer

DENVER, Colo. AP - Lobbyist Dita D. Beard has denied for the first time under oath that she ever wrote a memo linking an out-of-court settlement of Justice Department antitrust suits against the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. and an ITT contribution for the Republican National Convention.

Testifying from her hospital bed, the ITT employe was questioned by a Senate subcommittee about a controversial memo published by columnist Jack Anderson.

She said she remembered writing a memo with phrasing similar to that released by Anderson, but denied ever linking the convention contribution and the settlement last July of the antitrust suits.

The ITT lobbyist also said she was told there was someone in the White House who believed the conglomerate was prepared to contribute \$600,000 to the GOP convention.

She said she wrote a memo last June 25 after a conversation with her boss, W.R. Merriam.

She quoted Merriam as saying "someone in the White House" had called him about a \$600,000 commitment to the Republicans.

Mrs. Beard said she could not remember who had called Merriam or the exact date of the phone call, but she recalled that the unidentified White House staffer had asked Merriam:

"Is this \$600,000 going to Nixon's campaign?"

Mrs. Beard said she wrote her memo to straighten out Merriam and the White House about exactly how ITT would help underwrite the cost of the convention.

Partially at issue, she said, was whether ITT would provide cash or service or both.

Mrs. Beard denied accounts of conversations with former Kentucky Gov. Louie Nunn or a sentence in Anderson's column which said,

"John Mitchell has certainly kept it on the higher level only . . ."

Anderson said "it" referred to ITT's pledge of money for the convention.

Mitchell has resigned as attorney general to head President Nixon's re-election campaign. Richard G. Kleindienst, a deputy attorney general under Mitchell, has been nominated to succeed him.

Confirmation of Kleindienst's nomination has been delayed pending completion of a Senate Judiciary Committee probe into the charges raised in the Anderson column, which both Mitchell and Kleindienst have denied.

MORE

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DENVER Take 2 Beard Bjt Lead a249: denied. 270

As the first of six 90-minute sessions planned by the senators ended, subcommittee Chairman Sen. Philip Hart, D-Mich., said Mrs. Beard's testimony grew livelier and more vigorous as time went on.

"She seemed strong and more outgoing than at the outset," he said.