

# Call to ITT by Nixon?

SF Examiner

DENVER — (AP) — Lobbyist Dita Beard linked the White House to the controversy surrounding International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. before collapsing in bed during a hospital room hearing called by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The 53 year old Mrs. Beard, recuperating from a heart ailment, fell back onto her bed in pain yesterday after undergoing questioning by a Senate subcommittee investigating charges by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

### Long Delay

Dr. Louis Radetsky, her physician at the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital, said later she had suffered severe pains in her chest, left shoulder, left arm and hand. Radetsky said she was resting comfortably four hours after the attack.

Radetsky said today it would be at least six months before Mrs. Beard could travel to Washington for another appearance before the committee.

Asked if her condition, known as angina pectoris,

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might prevent her from ever giving further testimony, Garland replied, "Absolutely."

Radetsky added that "we have some reason to believe the subpoena under which Mrs. Beard testified Sunday will be quashed." He declined to elaborate.

Sen. Philip Hart (D-Mich.), the subcommittee chairman, has said previously, however, that Mrs. Beard might still be heard from even though the subpoena were quashed.

### Changed

Mrs. Beard, before the hearings were temporarily called off, had testified under oath that she had written a memo after her boss told her the White House had called him to find out what ITT's financial commitment would be toward

the Republican National Convention.

"It suddenly jumped up, is this \$600,000 going to Nixon's campaign," Mrs. Beard testified.

After the hearing, Sen. John Tunney (D-Calif.) said the telephone call mentioned a \$600,000 figure.

"It would appear that the ambiguity was in the White House over whether the money would go to the Republican convention or to the presidential campaign," Tunney said.

In his column Anderson published a memorandum allegedly written by Mrs. Beard linking the out-of-court settlement of three antitrust cases against ITT last year with a \$400,000 financial guarantee from the conglomerate to the city of San Diego to assist it in obtaining the Republican National Convention.



Dita Beard as she faced Senate probers yesterday

—UPI Photo

Mrs. Beard said she thought the White House phone call and her subsequent memorandum occurred in late June or early July last year.

That was in a period when the antitrust division was negotiating with ITT on the settlement that was announced July 31.

Under the consent decree, the government's suit to force ITT to divest itself of the \$2 billion Hartford Insurance Co. — with a \$1 billion cash flow — was dropped and the firm was forced to shed nearly \$1 billion worth of other less valuable subsidiaries.

#### Concession Made

During the 2½ hours of testimony before her attack, Mrs. Beard again denied that she had written the memorandum published by Anderson. But she conceded there were several parts of it that she had put in an interoffice memo to her boss, W. R. Merriam, head of ITT's Washington office.

She said she had been asked to write a memo by Merriam after he told her the White House had called. She said Merriam did not tell her who in the White House had called him.

Mrs. Beard's attorney, David Fleming, said today new witnesses will be brought forth to support Mrs. Beard's version of a meeting with Brit Hume, an associate of Anderson who testified that she told him on two occasions that she wrote the memo.

#### Old Friend

Fleming said Walter Benning, an old friend of Mrs. Beard's and an ITT employee in Fort Wayne, Ind., and her secretary, Beverly Sin-cavage, were present during the meeting with Hume and that Benning overheard most of the conversation.

Fleming and his associate, Harold White, disclosed that their legal fees were being paid by ITT.

Fleming, of Van Nuys, described himself as an old friend of Mrs. Beard's after meeting her six years ago at a Washington luncheon.

Mrs. Beard changed part of her testimony between the morning and afternoon sessions.

In the morning hearing she said she couldn't have written the Anderson memo, dated last June 25, because she wasn't at her office that day. Later, however, she said she had written the memo requested by Merriam on that date.

She did not change her testimony denying the authorship of the Anderson document. But she said there was information in it that she had no knowledge of.

"It isn't a noble commitment," Mrs. Beard said. "It's a business deal. What's so noble about making some money from three hunks of property."

She referred to the three hotels in San Diego owned by an ITT subsidiary, the Sheraton Corp. of America.

In the disputed document, ITT's guarantee at San Diego was described as "a noble commitment."

Other senators on the subcommittee hearing testimony here were Democrats Quentin N. Burdick of North Dakota, Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Republican Marlow W. Cook of Kentucky.

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