

Spicy-Tongued Dita Beard: Wise in Ways of Washington

DENVER (AP) — Before she collapsed Sunday, corporate lobbyist Dita Davis Beard confirmed earlier descriptions of a woman wise in the ways of Washington and unafraid of spicy language.

Through more than two hours of testimony in a special assembly room at the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital, Mrs. Beard, 53, answered questions from six senators on a variety of subjects.

Her comments drew frequent laughter from members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Describing the boredom of staff meetings in International Telephone & Telegraph Corp.'s Washington office, Mrs. Beard said, "To stop this nonsense, I would tell the filthiest stories I could tell and shock them all back to their offices."

THAT USUALLY abruptly ended the meeting, she said.

Referring to a paragraph in a memo attributed to her by columnist Jack Anderson, she said, "I don't know where that mother came from." And of another passage: "I didn't know what in the blooming hell it was all about."

On her familiarity with several Cabinet members in the Nixon administration: "I've known Mel Laird (Defense Secretary) since he was a baby."

She later talked about a be-

lief in the ITT office that files were accessible to a Washington newsman who might say, "Let's go down and play in the ITT files for a while."

Also on the subject of Washington journalists: "I know all too well, the viciousness of certain reporters in Washington and the fact that they care nothing of damaging human beings, but only of getting a 'story.'"

On her loyalty to ITT: "This company is my baby."

Mrs. Beard said she drew criticism for a tendency not to record her activities by writing memos: "I think I've been cursed out more than any other human being on earth for that."

"YOU DON'T communi-

cate . . . you don't write enough," she said her superiors frequently told her.

Besides, said Mrs. Beard, if a meeting is important you shouldn't put it in writing and "if it's not important enough why bother?"

Ironically, it is a memo attributed to Mrs. Beard which touched off the controversy.

She said after the memo was published ITT officials in New York and Washington refused to believe her denials that she wrote it.

"Some people in Washington were delighted to think I had written it," she said. "Someone was trying to put a fast period to my existence."

She added: "I couldn't make them listen. I had no place to go."

27 MAR 72

THE STATES-ITEM



MRS. DITA D. BEARD shakes hands with SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY, D-Mass., in Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital in Denver, Colo. SEN. PHILIP HART, D-Mich., is at right. —AP WIREPHOTO.