

# I.T.T. Favors for Congressmen Alleged

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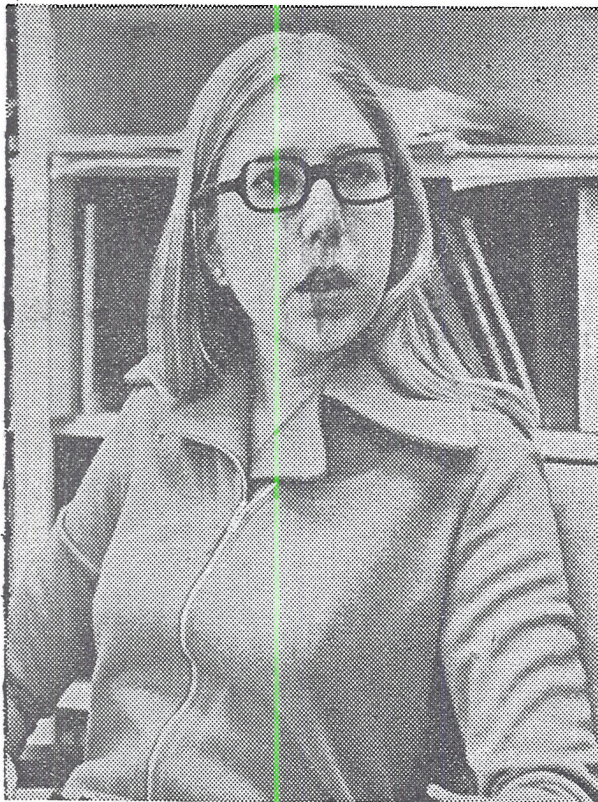
WASHINGTON, March 30—Mrs. Susan Lichtman, Mrs. Dita D. Beard's former secretary, said in an interview here today that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation regularly did favors for members of Congress and that she herself handled a request from Senator Vance Hartke last summer for use of one of the company's jet planes.

Senator Hartke could not be reached for comment. His office said he was on his way to Washington from Boston, where he has just undergone minor surgery on his ear.

"The thing that shocked me," Mrs. Lichtman said, "and very little in Washington would shock me, was that members of Congress would call Congressional Liaison [an I.T.T. section here] and sometimes Mrs. Board for favors on a big scale."

"The one instance that I specifically recall," Mrs. Lichtman continued, "because I had to call back and say there just isn't a plane available right now, they are all in use, was a request from Senator Vance Hartke—I believe in June of last year," Mrs. Lichtman said she had relayed the refusal to a member of the Senator's staff.

She said the requests were



The New York Times/Mike Lien

Mrs. Susan Lichtman during interview in Washington

so numerous that Mrs. Beard was moved at one point to say something like "All these people want planes all the time. Don't they know the company has to use these planes, too?"

Mrs. Lichtman said she also

remembered a request from a

Congressman to have two I.T.T. camper vehicles meet him on his arrival at Le Havre, France, so that he and his family could camp and tour around Europe. She said she could not remem-

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ber who had made that request.

The 26-year-old woman, now a student at the University of Toronto, also said that International Telephone had refused to cooperate with Mrs. Beard's lawyers and had tried to keep Mrs. Beard's daughter, Lane Beard, from reaching Mrs. Lichtman in Toronto.

Harold E. White, one of the lawyers, called Mrs. Lichtman, she said, and told her that the corporation had refused to give him a copy of the affidavit she had filed. Mrs. Lichtman's affidavit said basically that she recalled typing some portions of a memorandum described as Mrs. Beard's by Jack Anderson, the columnist, but that she did not recall other portions.

### Ignited Inquiry

It was the columnist's publication of the memorandum that touched off the current hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee into a possible link — implied by the memorandum — between settlement of three Federal antitrust suits against international Telephone and a pledge by an I.T.T. subsidiary, the Sheraton Hotel Corporation, to help finance the 1972 Republican National Convention in San Diego. The inquiry is in recess for the Easter holiday.

"I was confused," Mrs. Lichtman recalled. "I told Mr. White I couldn't understand why they wouldn't let him look at my affidavit." She said she then called International Telephone and was referred to a "Mr. Lahoy" in the security section who told her he would check with the corporation's lawyers.

He called back, she said, and told her the lawyers felt she should not talk with Mr. White "because there might be some talk of collusion."

Mrs. Lichtman said in the interview that she could not understand that, but in any case Mr. White called back later the same day, she said, and told her that her call had succeeded in getting the corporation to let him see a copy of the affidavit.

In New York today, International Telephone identified R. J. Lavoie as its director of security and safety. He was not in his office this afternoon.



### Treatment of Daughter

Mrs. Lichtman said she was also baffled by the treatment that she said was given Lane Beard. "Mrs. Beard's daughter finally reached me through her own efforts," she said. "She told me she had called Beverly Sincavage [a secretary who works for Mrs. Beard] and Miss Sincavage told her my whereabouts were unknown. I had called Miss Sincavage myself earlier in March to ask about Mrs. Beard's health and had given her my telephone number."

Miss Sincavage has refused to answer any questions.

When Lane Beard reached Mrs. Lichtman, Mrs. Lichtman recalled, "She asked whether I would be willing to talk with her mother's attorney. I said I would."

The former secretary said she was "angry" with the way International Telephone and others have treated Mrs. Beard, whom she described as "charming," "generous" and "fair."

"She is a bit of a character, but a very nice person," she continued, explaining that Mrs. Beard is "rather tough in mannerisms and her language is colorful."

### Rapid Advancement

"My impression was that Mrs. Beard worked more or less independently, and she worked more with New York than with the people in the Washington office," Mrs. Lichtman said. She said that Mrs. Beard "started 10 years ago as Mr. Merriam's secretary and advanced rapidly to lobbyist, with an office as big as his."

W. R. Merriam is head of I.T.T.'s Washington office.

Mrs. Lichtman said that, although Mrs. Beard is the only person in the office with the title "lobbyist," the other people in the Congressional Relations Section seemed to do much the same kind of work—meeting with Congressmen and officials in Government agencies and keeping track of matters of interest to the corporation. With the exception of one man, she said, they all have the title "manager."

She said she was particularly unhappy about the characterization of Mrs. Beard by her physician, Dr. Victor L. Liska, as a woman given to heavy drinking and occasional irrationality. "I have never seen her drunk or irrational," she said.

Mrs. Lichtman also chastised International Telephone on the grounds that it had not told her that her affidavit would be released to the press, and that it had released the affidavit "in conjunction with this other memo and Mr. Merriam's innuendoes."

On March 20, I.T.T. publicists gave reporters Mrs. Lichtman's affidavit along with a document that they said was the "genuine" Beard memorandum and part of a letter by Mr. Merriam to Mrs. Beard in which he said Mrs. Beard lacked self-discipline.

Mrs. Lichtman called Mr. Merriam's letter "nasty." She said: "It's innuendo to publish something like this and say it's in regard to Mrs. Beard's health when they are really talking about her staying up late at night."