

6 April 72

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BEARD-UNION

BY ROBERT E. COX
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THE CLAIM BY OFFICIALS OF INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH
CORP. THAT THEY NEVER SAW THE ALLEGED DITA BEARD MEMORANDUM WAS
DISPUTED IN SAN DIEGO MORE THAN A MONTH AGO BY U.S. REP. BOB
WILSON, R-SAN DIEGO.

THE SAN DIEGO CONGRESSMAN, IN A MARCH 3 INTERVIEW WITH THE SAN
DIEGO UNION, MADE SEVERAL POINTS ABOUT MATTERS RELATING TO THE SENATE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT A DEAL WAS
MADE BETWEEN THE ITT AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

SOME OF THE POINTS, INCLUDING ONE RELATING TO THE EXISTENCE OF A
MEMORANDUM, DID NOT MATCH UP WITH THE TESTIMONY LATER GIVEN TO THE
COMMITTEE, WHICH RESUMES ITS HEARINGS IN WASHINGTON TODAY. (THURS)

AMONG WILSON'S STATEMENTS:

--MRS. DITA BEARD, THE ITT LOBBYIST WHO ALLEGEDLY WROTE A MEMO LINKING
AN OUT-OF-COURT ANTITRUST SUIT TO AN ITT UNDERWRITING OF THE REPUBLICAN
NATIONAL CONVENTION, TOLD WILSON SHE HAD TYPED A MEMORANDUM RELATING
TO THE ISSUE, AND PERSONALLY CARRIED IT TO HER BOSS, WILLIAM R.
MERRIAM.

--MERRIAM, HEAD OF ITT'S WASHINGTON OFFICE, TOLD WILSON THAT HE
HAD RECEIVED THE MEMO, BUT THOUGHT HE HAD GIVEN IT BACK TO MRS.
BEARD.

--HAROLD GENEEN, PRESIDENT OF ITT, HAD CONFIRMED TO WILSON AT A
DINNER IN SAN DIEGO LAST MAY 12, THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD UNDERWRITE
\$400,000 OF SAN DIEGO'S CASH BID TO GET THE 1972 REPUBLICAN NATIONAL
CONVENTION.

ALL THREE POINTS SINCE HAVE BEEN DENIED--FULLY OR PARTIALLY--IN
TESTIMONY OR STATEMENTS GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE IS
INVESTIGATING CHARGES ARISING FROM THE MEMO THAT A DEAL EXISTED
BETWEEN ITT AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND WHETHER ATTY.

GEN. -NOMINEE RICHARD G. KLEINDIENST WAS INVOLVED IN ANY WRONG DOING.

MRS. BEARD, TESTIFYING TO THE COMMITTEE IN DENVER, SAID SHE HAD NEVER
WRITTEN THE MEMO AS IT APPEARED IN JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN FEB. 29. SHE
SAID SHE REMEMBERED PORTIONS OF IT, BUT NOT THOSE IN WHICH SHE
LINKED THE ITT CONVENTION UNDERWRITING TO THE OUT-OF-COURT ANTITRUST
SETTLEMENTS.

WILSON, IN THE INTERVIEW MARCH 3, DID NOT MENTION WHETHER MRS.
BEARD DISPUTED THE ANDERSON MEMO. HE SAID SHE HAD TOLD HIM SHE
TYPED UP THE MEMO AT MERRIAM'S REQUEST TO CLARIFY AN AGREEMENT
MADE BETWEEN WILSON, GENEEN AND SHERATON CORP. OF AMERICA PRESIDENT
HOWARD (BUD) JAMES ABOUT ITT BACK OF THE CONVENTION CASH BID.

WILSON COULD NOT BE CONTACTED FOR COMMENT OR CLAIRFICATION.
MERRIAM, IN A SWORN STATEMENT, SAID "I DID NOT RECEIVE THIS
ALLEGED MEMORANDUM FROM MRS. BEARD ON JUNE 25, 1971, OR AT ANY
OTHER TIME."

IN THE MARCH 3 INTERVIEW, WILSON SAID MERRIAM HAD ORDERED
MRS. BEARD--WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE MAY 12 MEETING--TO PUT HER
THOUGHTS IN A MEMO. WILSON SAID MRS. BEARD ASKED MERRIAM WHY HE
WANTED IT IN WRITING, AND HE REPLIED "I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE
RAMIFICATIONS."

SO, WILSON SAID, MRS. BEARD "HAND-CARRIED IT, SHE SAID, TO

MERRIAM....."

AFTER ANDERSON MADE KNOWN HIS VERSION OF THE MEMO, WILSON SAID, MERRIAM CAME TO WILSON'S OFFICE. "AND HE SAID 'I DID GET THAT MEMO' BUT HE SAID 'I'M SURE I GAVE IT BACK TO DITA,'" WILSON CONTINUED.

MERRIAM, ACCORDING TO WILSON, CONTINUED BY SAYING "MRS. BEARD HAD DISAGREED, AND THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE MEMO. "AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS?" WILSON ASKED. "...ITT PUTS OUT THE STORY THAT NOBODY EVER SAW IT. WELL, THAT'S GARRITY (E.J. GARRITY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO GENEEN) SAYING NOBODY EVER SAW THE MEMO," WILSON SAID.

"THE HELL THEY DIDN'T. MERRIAM PERSONALLY TOLD ME LAST MONDAY THAT HE GOT THE MEMO....."

IN THE INTERVIEW, WILSON ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HE, GENEEN AND JAMES-- THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITT HOTEL CHAIN SUBSIDIARY--HAD ARRANGED DURING THE MAY 12 DINNER MEETING IN SAN DIEGO FOR THE \$400,000 UNDERWRITING.

(STORY CONSISTS OF 4 MORE GRAFS DEALING WITH THE \$400,000 PLEDGE, DOES NOT MENTION MEMO AGAIN.)

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