

Denise Bourdet, Pacifica Radio, Washington:

..... The San Diego Union and The Baltimore Sun published part of a March 3rd interview with California congressman Bob Wilson. On that date Wilson told Union reporter Robert Cox he was sure that ITT vice-president William Merriam gave the Dita Beard memo to columnist Jack Anderson. Its purported author, ITT lobbyist Dita Beard, has denied writing the incriminating statements in the memo. However, congressman Wilson said she did write the document, that Merriam said he received it and that Anderson must have gotten it from Merriam.

..... Wilson explained why an ITT vice-president would have given Jack Anderson an embarrassing document by describing a history of conflict between Dita Beard, Merriam and ITT vice-president E.J. Gerrity. Wilson said Gerrity and Merriam mousetrapped Beard into writing the memo, so as to have her fired. The California Republican said the two vice-presidents were jealous of Beard because she had access to [Harold] Geneen and they did not - (quote) "they just hate her." According to Wilson, Beard was too smart to put such a sensitive matter on paper, but Merriam ordered her to do so.

Wilson also said Merriam visited him at his Washington office the day before* Anderson published the memo and that Merriam said he had received the document. In a sworn statement to the Judiciary Committee Merriam has denied all knowledge of the incriminating parts of the memo. Wilson said Merriam told him he gave the memo back to Dita Beard but the congressman said he himself was sure Merriam gave the paper to Anderson, as part of a plot to ruin the lobbyist. (Quote) "The thing blew up in their faces."

Dita Beard told the Judiciary Committee that neither Merriam nor Gerrity would believe she had not written the memo, after it was published. Judiciary member [John] Tunney said today if Wilson's statements were accurate, Beard, Merriam and Harold Geneen could be guilty of perjury.

After the March 3rd interview was published in today's papers Wilson sent a telegram to Judiciary Committee chairman James Eastland. The California congressman, reportedly on an Armed Services Committee inspection tour of naval facilities in the Caribbean, said Dita Beard never said there was a connection between the ITT convention pledge and the anti-trust settlements, nor did he mention such a connection. Wilson's latest statement could be interpreted as supporting Beard's latest statement that she wrote all of the memo except the incriminating sentences.

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* Also SF Examiner 6 Apr 72