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Dita Beard 340

DENVER Colo. AP - Two doctors who declined a Senate Judiciary Committee request to re-examine ailing lobbyist Dita Beard clarified their medical opinions on her condition Wednesday in a telegram to committee Chairman Sen. James O. Eastland. Dr. Ray Pryor and Dr. Joseph Snyder, both cardiologists, said the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. lobbyist "may possibly have angina pectoris due to coronary artery disease."

In a telegram of April 14, the doctors had told Eastland that a second outpatient examination of Mrs. Beard, 53, probably would not be meaningful and suggested that the next examination be done on an inpatient basis in Washington, D.C., her home.

This telegram, Pryor and Snyder explained Wednesday "was partially misunderstood by much of the news media and the public..."

They had been quoted as saying in the April 14 telegram that "there were no positive findings of heart disease from a physical examination, electrocardiogram or chest X-rays."

But they explained Wednesday that their initial examination March 12 resulted in the opinion that she "may possibly have angina pectoris..." but that this was based on her personal history and a physical examination alone.

In her case, "in many other patients with definite coronary artery disease" the electrocardiogram and chest X ray remain normal.

"In order to confirm a possible diagnosis of angina pectoris," they told the Mississippi Democrat Wednesday "inpatient tests are often required."

The doctors note that the decision on Mrs. Beard's return to Washington remained with her private physician, Dr. L. M. Radetsky under investigation for possible irregularities in medicare claims.

The second independent examination of Mrs. Beard was requested by the committee following disclosure of the investigation of Radetsky.

Mrs. Beard is a central figure in the controversy surrounding a memo published by columnist Jack Anderson which Anderson said linked out-of-court settlement of an antitrust suit against ITT to an ITT financial commitment to the Republican National Convention.

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