

## ITT Case Charges

# GOP Aid to Donor Cited

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A memorandum attributed to a lobbyist for the International Telephone & Telegraph Co., says commitments by the company to help finance the Republican National Convention aided in getting favorable settlement of major antitrust suits against ITT.

The memorandum, attributed to Dita Beard of the ITT Washington office and directed to W. R. Merriam, an ITT vice president and head of the Washington office, was made available by columnist Jack Anderson.

### Conversations

"I am convinced," the memo said, "because of several conversations with Louie re Mitchell, that our noble commitment has gone a long way toward our negotiations on the mergers eventually coming out as Hal wants them.

"Certainly the President has told Mitchell to see that things are worked out fairly."

Anderson, in his syndicated column published today, said the persons referred to were Louie B. Nunn, former governor of Kentucky; Attorney General John Mitchell; and Harold S. Geneen, president and chairman of ITT.

ITT and the Justice Department denied any deal over the convention financing or the antitrust case.

### Settlement

The Justice Department announced last July 31 an out-of-court settlement of the merger cases that allowed ITT to keep some of the firms it sought to acquire if it would divest itself of others.

Eight days earlier the Republican party had announced the selection of San Diego for its national convention opening Aug. 21.

The Sheraton Corp. of America, an ITT subsidiary, confirmed last December it had pledged \$100,000 to the San Diego Convention Civic Committee and had earmarked another \$100,000 for the committee, if needed, on a matching basis. Sheraton denied pledging \$400,000.

Sheraton has two hotels in San Diego and is building another scheduled for completion before the convention.

### 'Secret Deal'

Anderson said in his column that Mrs. Beard "acknowledged the secret deal" when confronted with the memo.

An ITT spokesman said last night that Merriam had not seen the memo until it was shown to him by one of Anderson's assistants last week. But the company would not say whether the Beard had written the memo, which was on ITT letterhead and dated June 25, 1971.

According to Anderson, Mrs. Beard met Mitchell at

a party given at the Kentucky governor's mansion last May. He quoted Mrs. Beard as saying Mitchell chided her for lobbying among congressmen over the merger case and told her she should have come directly to him.

Anderson quoted Mrs. Beard as saying Mitchell told her he had been told by President Nixon to "lay off ITT." Mrs. Beard was quoted as saying ultimate settlement of the case conformed to arrangements she worked out with Mitchell at the party.

### White House Call

The memo refers to a call from the White House and adds: "I thought you and I had agreed very thoroughly that under no circumstances would anyone in this office discuss with anyone our participation in the convention, including me.

"Other than permitting John Mitchell, Ed Reinecke, Bob Haldeman and Nixon, besides Wilson, of course, no one has known from whom that 400 thousand commitment had come," the memo said.

Ed Reinecke is lieutenant governor of California, H. R. Haldeman is a presidential aide and Bob Wilson is a California Republican congressman who represents San Diego and is chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee.

### 'Can't Be Known'

"I hope, dear Bill," the memo concluded, "that all this can be reconciled between Hal and Wilson — if all of us in this office remain totally ignorant of any commitment ITT has made to anyone.

"If it gets too much publicity, you can believe our negotiations with Justice will wind up shot down. Mitchell is definitely helping us, but cannot let it be known."

Mitchell acknowledged talking to Mrs. Beard at Nunn's party but denied making any deal with her.

### 'No Deal'

"There was no deal of any kind to settle our antitrust cases," ITT said. "It is unfair to the individuals involved to even suggest such a possibility.

ITT also said Sheraton's contribution to the convention "was made as a non-partisan joint effort of the San Diego community and was purely in support of a local situation."