

In Denver Hospital

ITT Woman Found, Vote Is Postponed

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON—The Senate vote on Richard Kleindienst's nomination as attorney general was delayed indefinitely yesterday when a key lobbyist sought for questioning about a Justice Department antitrust case was found seriously ill in a Denver hospital.

Mrs. Dita Davis Beard, 53, the Washington lobbyist for International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., had been sought to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee about a memorandum she purportedly wrote linking the government's settlement of a controversial ITT merger proposal to an ITT subsidiary's \$400,000 offer to help finance the 1972 Republican National Convention.

A few hours after Mrs. Beard was located at Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital in Denver, undergoing intensive care for a serious heart condition, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield said the confirmation would be postponed indefinitely.

'Several Weeks'

The Senate Judiciary Committee had unanimously approved the Kleindienst nomination but reopened its hearings at his request to consider the implications raised by Mrs. Beard's memo, published earlier this week by syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

In Washington, Mansfield told United Press International by telephone from his

home the nomination could be delayed several weeks.

"Things will have to be held in abeyance until all this is cleared up," he said. "I'm sure Mr. Kleindienst would like to have this matter cleared up. He has said as long as this is going on, he's got a cloud, a shadow, over his head and he wants it removed."

Central Point

The Beard memo is a central point in published suggestions that the Justice Department, with Kleindienst's knowledge as deputy attorney general, dropped its antitrust suit against ITT in exchange for the offer by ITT's Sheraton Hotel Corp. to underwrite GOP convention costs.

President Nixon nominated Kleindienst to succeed Attorney General John Mitchell, who left office March 1 to direct Nixon's re-election campaign. Klein-

—Turn to Page 24, Col. 2

—From Page 1

dienst and Mitchell have denied any wrongdoing.

In Denver, Dr. David T. Garland, an osteopathic physician, said Mrs. Beard was admitted to the hospital Friday night. He said he did not know how long she would stay.

FBI Waits

Two FBI agents waited outside her hospital room to serve her with a subpoena issued by the judiciary committee. Garland said he had not permitted them to see her.

Garland said Mrs. Beard first suffered chest pains Thursday morning aboard a flight to Denver and oxygen was evidently administered aboard the plane.

He said she suffers from angina pectoris, and insufficiency of arterial circulation to the heart.

"We're trying to prevent a coronary thrombosis right now," he said.

Mrs. Beard had been missing from Washington since the first Anderson column reporting the memo appeared Tuesday morning.

Off to Hide

Where she was — and why — until she turned up in

Denver remained a mystery.

But Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.), told the San Diego Union he had talked to Mrs. Beard by telephone Wednesday, and she told him "she'd been up to New York, that they (ITT) were putting her on a leave of absence and that she was going to get out of town."

Wilson said he asked her where she was going and she replied, "I have no idea where I'm going, but where I'm going they won't be able to find me, and I won't be able to talk to them."

The Beard memo indicates Wilson had a key role in arranging the Sheraton offer to the GOP convention.

Brit Hume, an Anderson Associate, said Mrs. Beard told him last Sunday that "ITT has told me to get out of town."

Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) recessed the Judiciary committee meetings until Tuesday, when he said three "mystery surprise witnesses" provided by ITT would testify.

Eastland said the committee would also hear Tuesday from Mitchell Anderson, ITT President Harold S. Geneen and W. R. Merriam, head of the company's Washington office and Mrs. Beard boss.