

I.T.T. Denies Any Unpleasantness With Lobbyist

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By MICHAEL C. JENSEN

The International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation asserted yesterday that Mrs. Dita D. Beard, the lobbyist who wrote a memorandum involving an antitrust settlement and a contribution to the Republican National Convention, was summoned to the company's New York headquarters the day the memorandum was made public.

A spokesman for I.T.T. said that after meetings with company officials on Feb. 29 and March 1, Mrs. Beard requested and was granted an indefinite leave of absence for reasons of ill health, at full pay of about \$30,000.

An I.T.T. spokesman denied

yesterday that officials at the company had been unpleasant to Mrs. Beard during the two days.

Dr. Victor L. Liszka, Mrs. Beard's physician, said in an interview Monday that Mrs. Beard had told him corporation official refused to let her talk to the company's chairman, Harold S. Geneen, and had been "unpleasant" to her.

The company spokesman conceded that she had not conferred with Mr. Geneen, but rather with Edward J. Gerrity Jr., a senior vice president in charge of corporate relations.

The company said that Mrs. Beard, who has suffered from recurring heart trouble, asked for the leave of absence because she wanted "a complete

rest." A spokesman also said no one in the company had seen the memorandum before a copy of it was presented by an associate of the columnist Jack Anderson to William Merriam, an I.T.T. vice president in charge of the concern's Washington office.

A former high I.T.T. official, now with another company, said in an interview that he considered Mrs. Beard to be a highly effective lobbyist with excellent Washington connections.

The executive, who asked not to be identified, said Mrs. Beard was known in Washington as a "real character," but was a "solid, effective person" who was considered extremely valuable by I.T.T.