

MAR 18 1972

I.T.T. AIDE DENIES SHE WROTE MEMO CITED AT HEARING

Mrs. Beard Asserts Version Presented by Anderson Is a 'Hoax' and a 'Forgery'

NYTimes

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
Special to The New York Times

DENVER, March 17—Mrs. Dita Davis Beard, branded as a "hoax," a "forgery" and a "cruel fraud" today a memorandum attributed to her linking the settlement of antitrust actions against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation with its donation to the Republican National Convention.

Her statement was issued simultaneously in Washington by Hugh Scott, Republican of Pennsylvania, the Senate minority floor leader, and in Denver by her lawyer, David W. Fleming.

Mrs. Beard, a lobbyist, said that she had prepared a memorandum to her superior in the International Telephone office in Washington, William R. Merriam, on plans for the Republican convention.

"However," Mrs. Beard's statement declared, "it was not the memo Jack Anderson has put in evidence before the Senate. Mr. Anderson's memo is a forgery, and not mine."

Disputed by Anderson

In Washington, Mr. Anderson, the syndicated columnist, called Mrs. Beard's statement "about the most bizarre and blatant and incredible lie in a whole litany of lies." He insisted that Mrs. Beard previously authenticated the document.

Mrs. Beard's statement on the purported memorandum made public by Mr. Anderson said, "I did not prepare it and could not have since to my knowledge the assertions in it regarding the antitrust cases and former Attorney General

[John N.] Mitchell are untrue.

"I do not know who did prepare it, who forged my initial to it and how it got into Jack Anderson's hands or why. But I do know it is not my memo and is a hoax."

"I want the opportunity to

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1972

I.T.T. Lobbyist Denies She Wrote Memo

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tell the Senate Judiciary Committee the true facts about this false and fallacious document," she said, adding:

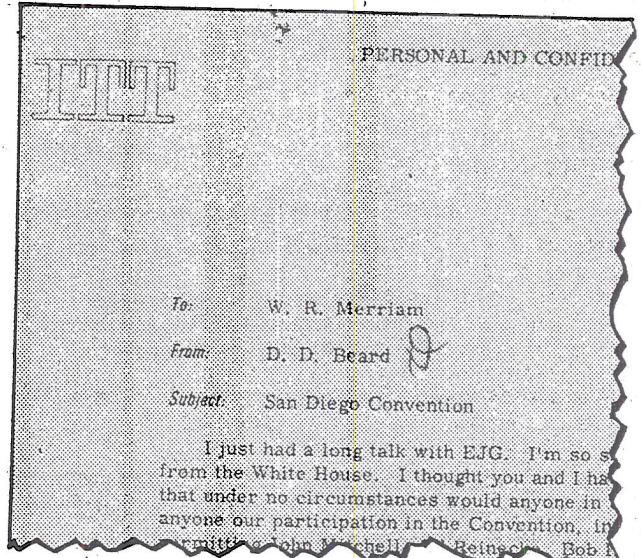
"I am ready to testify from my bedside at any time. I have done nothing to be ashamed of, and my family and—in a greater sense, the whole American Government—are victims of a cruel fraud. I only wish I could make this statement firmer and stronger and still get it printed in the public press."

Upset Over Delay

Mr. Fleming reported that Mrs. Beard, who is recovering from a heart ailment at the Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital here, was upset today when she learned that members of the Senate Judiciary Committee would not be coming to Denver Monday to interview her at her bedside.

Mr. Fleming said that he thought the decision by some committee members to stay away from Denver was a political one, made to string out the hearings as an embarrassment to the Nixon Administration.

Senator James O. Eastland, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which has been holding hearings on the dispute, told the Associated Press in Washington that the postponement of the visit to Denver by seven members of the committee resulted because the Senators were needed to vote on a proposed constitutional amendment on women's rights. He said that there was disagreement as to the timing of the vote and that the trip might be made later next week.



Mrs. Dita D. Beard charged that memorandum attributed to her was a "hoax" and that her initial was forged.

The hearings were called at the request of Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, whom the committee has already approved to replace Mr. Mitchell. Mr. Kleindienst asked to reply to charges by Mr. Anderson that linked the settlement of three antitrust suits to International Telephone's pledge to contribute, reportedly up to \$400,000, to the San Diego committee for the Republican convention.

In his rebuttal to Mrs. Beard today, Mr. Anderson said, "I can hardly believe that after all the testimony that has been taken, that after all the opportunity she has had to comment, after all she has told us, she would have the temerity to suggest this is not an authentic memo."

"We spent a week checking it out before we published it. She authenticated it."

In a statement issued late today in Washington, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, a committee member, said that if Mrs. Beard's allegations of forgery proved true, "then I.T.T. officials and the attorneys who have been in constant touch with Mrs. Beard all during the past three and one-half weeks have done a disservice to the Congress, to the American people and especially to Mr. Kleindienst by withholding this material flatly contradicting sworn testimony before the committee."

Mrs. Beard entered the hospital March 3 after flying here and suffering an attack of angina pectoris on the airplane.