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Attack on Anderson Charged

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The Washington Post said yesterday that the White House "is directing a major effort to discredit columnist Jack Anderson" because of administration anger over "the length and scope" of Senate hearings on the ITT merger case.

Both the White House and the Justice Department declined to comment.

The Post said the White House has been feeding negative material about Anderson to Republican senators and to the press.

And the newspaper said ITT lobbyist Dita Beard's repudiation of a memo attributed to her by Anderson came after two lawyers representing Mrs. Beard spent several days "consulting with Republican aides and ITT officers."

"It was no secret," the Post said, "that the administration, through contact with the attorney, David W. Fleming, had known well in advance what Mrs. Beard's official response would be."

Mrs. Beard released a statement through Fleming Friday night denouncing as a fraud a memo allegedly written by her which linked the Justice Department's decision to drop three antitrust suits against ITT to an ITT contribution to the City of San Diego to help pay for the Republican national convention.

The memo was published by Anderson and the resulting publicity prompted acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst to ask the Senate Judiciary Committee to reopen hearings on his nomination.

The Post cited the following as material supplied by the White House to Republican senators:

- A statement released by Sen. Marlow Cook of Kentucky alleging a conspiracy between Anderson and Democratic Sens. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Birch Bayh of Indiana.

- A rebuttal by Sen. Norris Cotton of New Hampshire to an attack on White House aide Peter Flanigan by Democratic Sen. Thomas Eagleton of Missouri.

- Statements by Sens. Barry Goldwater and Paul J. Fannin of Arizona supporting Kleindienst and attacking Anderson.

- A statement read at an executive session of the Judiciary Committee by Cook alleging that Mrs. Beard and Anderson's secretary, Opal Ginn, were frequent drinking companions. Cook also released a picture showing the two women at a party at a Washington hotel.