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Independent Study Backs Anderson

Memo Said Typed in ITT

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WASHINGTON — Two independent document experts recruited and paid for by the International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation have concluded that a disputed memorandum, which the company says is a "fraud," was typed in ITT's Washington office.

ITT officials — including the company's president, the director of its Washington office and the purported author of the memo — repeatedly have denied they knew anything about the document prior to newspaper publication of its contents one month ago.

The memo, attributed to Mrs. Dita Davis Beard, ITT's Washington lobbyist, is the principal piece of documentary evidence in the continuing controversy over alleged improprieties in the relations between ITT and the Nixon administration.

LAST FRIDAY, the Senate Judiciary Committee released a Federal Bureau of Investigation report which said laboratory tests on the disputed document had produced no evidence to substantiate the company's claim that the memo was a forgery and a hoax.

The FBI report also said chemical

tests had shown that the typewriter ink in the challenged June 25, 1971, document "appears substantially similar in composition to the typewriting ink" in all ITT letter and memos submitted for comparison which were prepared prior to June 28, 1971.

In contrast, the FBI said, the typewriter ink in Mrs. Beard's alleged memo "is definitely different from the inks appearing on all comparison documents dated after June 28, 1971."

That analysis supported the contention of syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, who first disclosed the contents of the memo, that the document

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was authentic and was typed at approximately the time it was dated.

BUT THE day after the FBI report was distributed, ITT issued a press release saying that "findings by two experts in the field of questioned documents strongly indicate" that the memo was prepared "probably as late as January 1972 or after" — more than six months after the date it carries.

No reports or supporting documentation from the two experts retained by ITT were made available to the public at that time. It was not until yesterday, when ITT officials were pressed by Democratic members of the Judiciary Committee, that the results of the independent authorities' tests were made known.

An examination of those reports discloses that, despite the company's efforts last Saturday to depict the two experts' findings as supportive of ITT's claim that the disputed memo is fraudulent, there is no available conclusive data to dispute the FBI's initial analysis of the document.

Moreover, although the experts retained by ITT conclude their reports by stating or suggesting that the disputed memo was probably typed in early 1972 instead of mid-1971, neither offers any substantial documentation to support that claim.

ONE OF the reports submitted to the Judiciary Committee was prepared by Mrs. Pearl L. Tytell of New York. It contains no data to support any of its conclusions, but it does identify a typewriter in ITT's Washington office as the machine used to prepare the disputed memo:

The second report was prepared by Walter C. McCrone of Chicago. It offers data on three tests conducted on Mrs. Beard's purported memo, and says experts were able to "fully confirm" Mrs. Tytell's identification of a typewriter in ITT's Washington office.