

Ex-Dita Aide Tells Of Congress Favors

Washington

Susan Lichtman, former secretary to lobbyist Dita Beard, portrayed the Washington office of International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. yesterday as a place where favors to legislators came easy.

Now a college student in Toronto, Mrs. Lichtman, 26, said she handled at least two requests from Capitol Hill herself and had the impression that any congressman or senator who needed transportation or other help could get it.

Once last June when Senator Vance Hartke (Dem.-Ind.) was scheduled for a midwestern speaking engagement, she checked on the availability of one of a fleet of ITT jets at the request of Hartke's office, she said.

The only reason he did not get the plane, Mrs. Lichtman told reporters, was that none was available. She said she was instructed to be polite in turning down the request.

Hartke was unavailable for comment, but a spokes-



UPI Telephoto

SUSAN LICHTMAN
She typed one memo

man for the Indiana Democrat said that "the senator did not request the use of an ITT plane last June or July or any other time."

Mrs. Lichtman worked for Mrs. Beard in the ITT office for seven weeks last summer including June 25, 1971, the date written on a controversial memo published by columnist Jack Anderson.

The memo, described as from Mrs. Beard to her boss W. R. Merriam, draws a link between a commitment of at least \$200,000 by ITT to the Republican National Convention in San Diego and a decision not to carry three antitrust suits filed by the Justice Department to the Supreme Court.

Mrs. Beard has denied writing much of the memo, but her testimony from a hospital bed in Denver conflicts directly with Mrs. Lichtman's statements.

MEMO

Mrs. Lichtman, who said she moved to Toronto at least partially in disaffection with political developments in the United States, said she remembers typing a memo which indicated former Attorney General John N. Mitchell played a role in locating the August convention in California.

The Anderson-published memo said: "John Mitchell has certainly kept the convention on the higher level only, we should be able to do the same."

Mitchell has denied playing any role in choosing a convention site and Mrs. Beard said she did not write that portion.

"I read what I type," Mrs. Lichtman said, "And I remember reading that."

She has no memory of the portion which indicates a link between the conglomerate's financial commitment and the eventual out-of-court settlement of the antitrust suits.

"DESTROY THIS"

Tagged on the end of the Anderson-published memo was the sentence, "Please destroy this, huh?"

Mrs. Lichtman said that was a common phrase Mrs. Beard used to emphasize the confidentiality of some memos.

Mrs. Lichtman said she decided to talk with reporters because it didn't appear she would ever be called to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee reconsidering the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be attorney general.

Kleindienst, deputy attorney general at the time of the settlement, asked that the hearings be reconvened when the memo was published. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Asked if any member of Congress could have asked for favors from ITT, Mrs. Lichtman replied: "That was my impression."

She said she never saw Mrs. Beard, "drunk, or irrational or in a stupor," as has been described by some Senate witnesses.

"I thought she was a wonderful lady," Mrs. Lichtman said, "very kind and very fair. I would use the word charming."

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