

# What Happened To Dita Beard?



— Jack Anderson

## Miami Beach

**I**NTERNATIONAL Telephone and Telegraph, which got caught in a plot to help subsidize the Republican Convention in San Diego, is lying low here at Miami Beach.

Two ITT press agents, Bernie Goodrich and Jack Horner, are passing out free booze from a small bar in their suite at the Eden Roc. But the drinks are intended for foreign newsmen who use ITT's communications facilities.

The ITT operatives are under strict injunction to keep out of Republican politics.

This is a dramatic departure from the way Dita Beard, the grand dame of ITT, operated at past conventions. She pushed ITT's corporate interests in the smoke-filled rooms with the brass and brains befitting a lobbyist for the world's most predatory corporation.

What's more, she could match the backroom boys drink for drink and story for story.

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**B**UT THIS was before she wrote her controversial memo, suggesting that the financial offer to the Republicans was linked to the settlement of ITT's antitrust case.

No outsider knows for sure whether ITT promised the Republicans \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000, \$400,000 or \$600,000. All these figures were mentioned by ITT officials testifying under oath.

The committee collecting the convention funds in San Diego received a check from ITT for \$100,000 as a down payment.

Mrs. Beard in her memo and San Diego's Congressman Bob Wilson in a taped interview both put the pledge at \$400,000.

But this is now political history. ITT saved its money: the Republicans moved their convention to Miami Beach. And Dita Beard? She's still in Denver where she wound up in a hospital with an alleged heart attack during the ITT hullabaloo.

Her attorney, David Fleming, tells us she is in such poor health that she may never be able to return to Washington. Her family doctor, Dr. Victor Liszka, tells us she has suffered another "relapse." The doctors who were assigned by the Senate to examine her found "no objective evidence of a heart attack."

Fleming wouldn't say where Mrs. Beard is staying in Denver. Her address is secret, her phone unlisted. But he confirmed that she is still drawing full salary from ITT.

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**T**HE REPUBLICANS are quietly searching for a way to open their party to more women, blacks and young people without resorting to what President Nixon has denounced as "quota politics."

GOP leaders are keenly aware that the Whig Party vanished after electing four Presidents in the 1800s, because the party wouldn't widen its base.

Republican strategists are particularly eager to broaden the party's appeal this year. They would like to take advantage of the expected Democratic defection and hopefully, convert Democrats who vote for President Nixon into permanent Republicans.