

ITT and the GOP Are Fighting Back



Fuller version filed Kleindienst/ITT. **Jack Anderson**

THE WHITE HOUSE, in its effort to discredit us and whitewash the International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) scandal, is conducting a massive undercover campaign.

Dozens of government gumshoes, Presidential aides and political flunkies have been assigned to investigate us, to prepare attacks on us and to plant stories in the press against us.

ITT has also retained the world's most famous and formidable private investigating firm, Intertel, to assist with the investigation.

Intertel submits its investigative reports to ITT, which has made them available to the White House. Presidential aides, in turn, have fed the material to Republican Senators for use against us.

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HERE'S THE incredible, behind-the-scenes story:

At first, the strategy was to discredit Dita Beard, the salty-tongued ITT lobbyist, who wrote the incriminating memo suggesting there had been a link between the settlement of ITT's antitrust cases and a commitment from ITT to help finance the Republican Convention.

Her physician, Dr. Victor L. Liszka, conferred with Justice Department officials Harlington Wood Jr., and John T. Duffner on the eve of his appearance at the Senate hearing. He testified that Mrs. Beard had told him she wrote the memo but was "mad and disturbed" at the time.

When this tack failed, the President's

men tried to peddle the idea that we had conspired with Dita Beard to concoct the damaging memo. This was planted with Senator Marlow Cook (Rep-Ky.), who rushed out with a statement questioning "the veracity of Anderson's account of how he obtained the memorandum and perhaps even on the origin and content of the memorandum itself."

One of the Justice Department's counterspies, John Martin, Internal Security's Analysis and Evaluation chief, tried to establish a link between Dita Beard and us. Intertel's president, Robert Peloquin, and his chief gumshoe, Ed Mullin, also worked on this angle.

Their "evidence" was routed through the White House to Senator Cook. This, too, backfired.

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THEN BEGAN the belated campaign to reverse the doctor's testimony and to persuade Mrs. Beard to change her story. An active and ardent California Republican, David W. Fleming, appeared as Mrs. Beard's attorney. He held a series of meetings with top Republicans and ITT officers in Washington, then issued a polarized statement signed by the poor woman claiming the memo was a forgery.

This latest "evidence," significantly, was released in Washington by Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott. Fleming also made statements to the press that sounded more as if he were representing the Nixon Administration than Dita Beard.