

Watergate Grand Jury Won't Call Dita Beard

New York

The Watergate special prosecutor has decided not to call Dita Beard as a witness before the Watergate grand jury, following two psychiatric examinations of the former lobbyist for the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Mrs. Beard had been considered a potentially important witness in establishing ITT's controversial relationship with the Nixon administration.

However, a psychiatrist appointed by the court at the request of Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor, has examined Mrs. Beard, and has concluded that she would not testify, sources close to the investigation said. Details of the two psychiatric reports were not disclosed.

The psychiatric examinations became known yesterday when Chief Judge John Sirica of the United States District Court in Washington unsealed a "stipulation and order" that was filled by the special prosecutor's office last month.

The document stated that psychiatric reports on Mrs. Beard had been prepared by doctors selected by both Mrs. Beard and the govern-



DITA BEARD
ITT lobbyist

ment.

After the examinations, the document said, a subpoena requiring Mrs. Beard to appear before the Watergate grand jury was withdrawn.

Instead, she was interviewed by representatives of the special prosecutor's office. Although the court document said the psychiatric reports must remain sealed, sources said the findings of the Watergate psychiatrist generally supported the contention of Mrs. Beard's psychiatrist that she would not

be a valuable witness.

The special prosecutor's office declined to comment on the psychiatric report. Mrs. Beard's attorney did not respond to an inquiry.

Mrs. Beard's testimony was considered important in the government's investigation into a controversial anti-trust settlement that allowed ITT to retain the Hartford Fire Insurance Co., which is generally considered to be its most valuable subsidiary.

Government scrutiny of the settlement was provoked last year when a memorandum, allegedly written by Mrs. Beard, became available. The memorandum said that a pledge of up to \$400,000 toward the Republican National Convention "has gone a long way toward our negotiations on the mergers eventually coming out as Hal (ITT's chairman, Harold S. Geneen) wants them."

The special prosecutor's office is investigating alleged influence from the White House in settling ITT's anti-trust cases. Mrs. Beard will still be required to provide the Watergate grand jury with documents requested by the special prosecutor, reportedly relating to the settlement and to her memorandum, according to the court document that was unsealed yesterday.

Until this point, it had been Mrs. Beard's physical health rather than her mental condition that had come under scrutiny.

Attempts by a Senate subcommittee to question her last year about the memorandum were thwarted by an apparent heart attack.

Last March, while she was being questioned in her hospital room in Denver, Mrs. Beard clutched her chest and moaned. The subcommittee quickly ended its interrogation.

After Mrs. Beard's collapse, her physician said she could not testify for at least six months. A few days later she taped a television interview and subsequently signed herself out of the hospital.

Later, the Senate Judiciary Committee commissioned two experienced cardiologists to examine her, and they were unable to find and evidence of heart disease.

Mrs. Beard has lived in Denver since 1972 and has continued to be employed by ITT. About a year ago, the company said it had reassigned her to "sales research."

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