



March, 1972

Dita Beard's Change of Mind

E. Howard Hunt, his red wig askew, interviews I.T.T. lobbyist Dita Beard in her Denver hospital room.

On February 29, 1972, columnist Jack Anderson reported that the Justice Department had dropped an antitrust case against I.T.T. in return for a \$400,000 pledge to help underwrite the 1972 Republican National Convention. Anderson's source was a memo, written and authenticated by Dita Beard, which stated: "Other than permitting John Mitchell, Ed Reincke, Bob Haldeman, and Nixon . . . no one has known from whom that 400 thousand commitment has come. . . . Mitchell is definitely helping us, but cannot let it be known."

The Senate Judiciary Committee, concerned about Richard Kleindienst's handling of the I.T.T. case, reopened hearings on his confirmation as attorney general. Dita Beard was to testify, but she was suddenly whisked off to a Denver hospital by G. Gordon Liddy, too "ill" to talk.

White House Special Counsel Charles Colson sent a disguised E. Howard Hunt to Denver. Claiming to represent "high levels of the administration," Hunt bearded Beard from 11 P.M. to 3 A.M. on her memo.

A few days later, on March 17, Dita Beard issued a sworn statement which said: "Mr. Anderson's memo is a forgery, and not mine." But, in 1973, the Senate Watergate hearings finally linked the President and Mitchell to the I.T.T. settlement.

April 19, 1971

Nixon Gives an Order on I.T.T.

President Nixon orders Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst to drop the appeal on the I.T.T. case.

In July, 1971, instead of going ahead with its landmark antitrust test case against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., the Justice Department announced an out-of-court settlement. No one announced that I.T.T. had just pledged \$400,000 to the 1972 Republican Convention.

On February 29, 1972, columnist Jack Anderson linked the contribution and the case. In March, Kleindienst insisted "I was not interfered with by anybody at the White House." In October, 1972, however, he told Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox a very different story:

On April 19, 1971, Kleindienst recalled, White House domestic counselor John Ehrlichman had called and told him that the President did not want him to file the government appeal on the I.T.T. case. Kleindienst refused to comply. Nixon himself called next. "Listen, you son of a bitch," he said. "Don't you understand the English language? Don't appeal that goddamn case, and that's all there is to it."

Kleindienst went to John Mitchell, and told him that he would resign rather than drop the case. Later, Mitchell told Kleindienst, "I've talked to your friend [Nixon]. He said do anything you want on antitrust cases." Kleindienst filed the appeal, but before it could be argued, the Justice Department settled with I.T.T.