

ITT Offer to Be Rejected, Reagan Says

SFChronicle

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Governor Ronald Reagan said at his regular press conference yesterday that he understands the Republican National Committee has decided to reject a reported offer of \$400,000 from International Telephone and Telegraph Co. to underwrite the GOP presidential convention in San Diego.

Asked if he agreed with Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke that the offer should be rejected because of the controversy surrounding the Justice Department's dropping of an antitrust suit against ITT, the Governor at first said: "I'm going to leave this up to the Senate Judiciary Committee."

Pressed for his own views on the matter, he replied:

"You have to be super-careful particularly when forces are out trying to portray something one way or the other.

"You have to be super-careful to not even subscribe to an appearance of wrong-doing, so possibly there is some reason for this (rejecting the offer)."

Then he added:

"I understand it's a moot question anyway. The National Committee has already made the decision to reject any such contribution."

He offered no elaboration, but his office later explained the statement was based on reports from Washington that U. S. Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, GOP

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Minority floor leader, declared that last November the GOP National Committee had said it would be improper to receive such a large share of financing from one company. Additionally, the reports said no offer had been made to the National Committee but one had been made to the city of San Diego.

(The United Press reported in Washington yesterday that the Republican National Committee indeed had reached its decision last November.

(Robert Tuttle, chief

spokesman for the committee, said it was decided it "would be improper" for the San Diego Civic Committee "to take such a disproportionate share of the Republican Party's convention needs from a single source," according to United Press.)

Informed that Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr., a Democrat, has said the ITT contribution should be investigated by Federal authorities, Reagan replied:

"Well, I think this is a legal matter for the U.S. Attorney in San Diego to make this decision. . . . Maybe the

Secretary of State feels better qualified to render opinions on that subject. But I don't."

The Governor told the press conference his administration "definitely" wants this session of the legislature to pass a law protecting the California coastline from indiscriminate development by promoters.

Several bills already have been introduced, but Reagan said it is "a distinct possibility" the administration will submit one of its own, and that it would embrace "such things as power plant sitings."

The Governor reacted sharply to criticism from Los Angeles officials that a measles outbreak might have been less serious if Reagan had not vetoed a bill for an immunization program several years ago.

The Governor contended that Los Angeles county officials "have a method whereby, almost on a weekly or a monthly basis, they can purge themselves of any wrongdoing by laying it all on the state.

"Whatever happens they like to blame the state. And sometimes you get a little irritated."