

A Threat of State Action Against ITT

Sacramento

Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. threatened legal action against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. yesterday unless a federal grand jury is asked to investigate an ITT subsidiary's cash offer to the Republican national convention.

In a telegram to acting U. S. Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, Brown said the U. S. attorney in San Diego has been "handcuffed" and "prevented" from investigating the controversial \$400,000 pledge to the convention by the Sheraton Corporation, and ITT subsidiary.

"Sheraton's massive contribution to the GOP convention appears to violate at least two federal laws," Brown said. He said that view was valid even if the pledge was not connected with the Justice Department's decision to settle an antitrust suit against ITT.

Brown said sections of the federal Corrupt Practices Act prohibit a corporation from contributing to federal

elections or political conventions and outlaw companies with government contracts from making such contributions. He noted ITT is a major government contractor.

The secretary of state, a Democrat, said he will take legal action against ITT unless the U. S. Justice Department calls a federal grand jury investigation of the contribution.

Brown said Harry D. Steward, the U. S. attorney in San Diego, told him he has orders to refer all matters concerning election law violations to the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

"The Department of Justice has effectively handcuffed Steward," Brown said.

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