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Brown Sues ITT For State

SF Examiner

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — California Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. filed suit in U.S. District Court today against the International Telephone and Telegraph Co. under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

Brown's suit asked for an injunction ordering the Republican National Committee to return the \$100,000 contributed to its convention by ITT's Sheraton Hotel division.

He said the Federal Corrupt Practices Act prohibits a corporation from contributing to a presidential campaign or to a convention.

"Clear Violation"

Brown also asked that the Republican Committee be enjoined from accepting any additional contributions from businesses and that ITT and Sheraton be prohibited from contributing any more money to the convention.

Brown said he filed the suit in his capacity as California's chief election officer.

A spokesman for the California Secretary of State said it was Brown's opinion that the ITT contribution "is a clear violation of the law."

Brown said he was filing the suit because the Justice Department had not called a federal grand jury investigation of the pledge to help underwrite the convention next August.

Wire Cited

The ITT said that through its Sheraton Hotel division it had contributed \$100,000 and given a pledge of an additional \$100,000 if that were matched by \$200,000 from other San Diego businesses.

Columnist Jack Anderson published a memorandum allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita Beard connecting the contribution and an out-of-court settlement of three antitrust suits against ITT.

Brown said last week he had wired Acting Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst that the U.S. attorney in San Diego, Harry D. Steward, has been "handcuffed" and prevented from investigating the case.

Brown said in a statement at that time that since "Kleindienst and the Justice Department may be intimately involved in the Sheraton matter, we now have a situation similar to the fox guarding the chicken coop."

Rarely Enforced

Political sources said the law on which Brown based his suit is rarely enforced because both Republicans and Democrats would be vulnerable.

According to the federal statute "it is unlawful . . . for any corporation whatever or any labor organization to make a contribution or expenditure in connection with any election at which presidential and vice presidential electors . . . are to be voted for, or in connection with any primary election or political convention or caucus held to select candidates for any of the foregoing offices."