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Suit Against ITT by California Official

Los Angeles

California Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. filed suit in U.S. District Court yesterday against the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act.

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

sion.

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

The \$100,000 check from Sheraton was given to the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau in August, 1971. This civic committee is raising \$600,000 to help meet expenses of the Republican convention, which is being held in San Diego next Au-

gust.

Brown's suit alleges that the convention bureau "accepted and received this check as an agent of the Republican National Committee in connection with and to finance the Republican National Convention."

A spokesman for the committee said there would be no immediate comment on the suit.

Republican National Chairman Robert Dole has

said in the past that corporate contributions to the San Diego civic committee are legal.

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

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

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

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