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SF Examiner

Another

ITT Ploy

Revealed

WASHINGTON — (AP) — While the Justice Department was moving toward final prosecution of anti-trust cases against ITT Corp. last spring, the conglomerate marshaled a lobbying campaign in the House to change the very antitrust laws it was accused of violating, the Washington Star said today.

The paper said Rep. Bob Wilson (R.-San Diego) and nearly two dozen other congressmen, some of whom did not know ITT was back of the effort, made a series of speeches and entries in the congressional record for ITT last February, March and April.

Wilson is a close friend of ITT lobbyist Mrs. Dita Beard and ITT president Harold S. Geneen.

In the end, however, the legislative campaign proved unnecessary because the three antitrust suits were settled out-of-court last July 31.

The Star said the principal weapon of the campaign was a bill to establish a 24-member Commission On Revising Antitrust Laws.

It would have given the President, the Senate and the House power to appoint eight members each. The bill was never seriously considered by the House Judiciary Committee.

The paper quoted one congressman as saying ITT knew the bill would never become law, but was using the campaign as a means of thwarting the antitrust efforts of former Asst. Atty. Gen. Richard W. McLaren.