

Brown Asks Sheraton Offer Probe

Sacramento

Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown Jr. yesterday requested a Federal Grand Jury investigation of the \$400,000 Sheraton Corp. offer to the Republican National Convention.

Brown said the Sheraton transaction "clearly appears to violate at least two" federal statutes.

He made his request in a letter to U.S. Attorney Harry D. Steward.

Brown said even if the Sheraton pledge was not connected with the U.S. Justice Department's decision to drop an antitrust action against the corporation's parent firm, International Telephone and Telegraph, the transaction still may have violated two laws.

Brown said the ITT subsid-

ary's offer to financially back the GOP convention in San Diego may have violated a federal law prohibiting corporations from contributing to national campaigns.

He also said a federal law that prohibits political contributions by companies with government defense contracts may have been broken.

"ITT is one of the largest

defense contractors in the nation and the \$400,000 pledge by its subsidiary seems to be a blatant attempt to circumvent the law," Brown said.

"I urge you to carry out your responsibility by immediately bringing the entire Sheraton transaction before a federal grand jury in San Diego," Brown wrote.

Brown, the state's chief

elections officer, also said he is considering bringing state action against Sheraton, ITT and the Republican National Committee.

"Since the original conversations regarding the \$400,000 subsidy took place in San Diego," Brown said, "it is possible that the Republican party is required to file financial reports in my office."

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