

ITT Gift

# Brown Asks GOP Probe

Examiner Capitol Bureau

SACRAMENTO — Democratic Secretary of State Edmond G. Brown Jr. has called for a grand jury investigation into the alleged \$400,000 gift to the Republican party by a national corporation.

Brown told U.S. Attorney Harry D. Steward in San Diego the reported pledge by the Sheraton Hotels, Inc., may have violated two laws.

Brown referred to the sum reportedly pledged by the hotel corporation after the U.S. Justice Department looked favorably on an anti-trust action involving International Telephone & Telegraph Corp., Sheraton's parent organization.

He said one violation may be of the law prohibiting corporations from contribut-

ing to federal campaigns.

"The Republican convention is obviously an integral part of a federal campaign," Brown said in his letter yesterday. "Since Sheraton is a corporation, we most likely have a violation of the law."

The Secretary of State also said another law prohibits political contributions by a company with defense contracts.

"ITT is one of the largest defense contractors in the nation and the \$400,000 pledged by its subsidiary, Sheraton Corp., seems to be a blatant attempt to circumvent the law," Brown charged.

He added that his staff is checking to determine whether any state laws may have been broken.