

ITT CaseNothing Evil About Offer: Weinberger

"In politics, anything you have to explain is difficult," said Caspar W. Weinberger, in one of the early aphorisms of this political year.

He was discussing with newsmen yesterday the \$400,000 grant or guarantee the Sheraton Corp., a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., reportedly made to the Republican convention in San Diego.

Said sum, which he pointed out was merely a promise to make up a deficit of the convention of as much as that amount, has been said to have influenced the Nixon Administration's attitude toward a multimillion dollar antitrust suit against ITT.

He said he saw no reason to turn down the offer, despite "this implication that there is something evil about it," and carefully drew the distinction between making such an offer to an individual candidate and making it to an entire political party.

He noted that hotel corporations had made up deficits in the last two GOP conventions held here in 1956 and 1964, but admitted that it had not been the case of one hotel chain making a single guarantee to underwrite alone the convention deficit.

Rather gratefully, he turned to the reason for his visit to The City. In his role as deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, he has been telling Bay area groups, such as yesterday Kiwanis Club meeting at the Fairmont Hotel, that the U.S. budget has, at present, no way to go but up.

The government is stuck with a multitude of fixed costs, he explained, such as retired pay for military and civil service personnel, Social Security, health, welfare, and the interest on the national debt, which keeps rising as does the debt itself.

"Three-quarters of the national budget is frozen," he said, "which is a reflection of the fact that once you launch a new program there is seldom any way to cut it back."
