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A Quick Study on ITT Deal

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The government paid \$242 for a report that persuaded the Justice Department to settle out of court the largest anti-trust case in history — involving corporations worth more than \$1 billion.

The Commerce Department in a statement filed with the Senate Judiciary Committee Friday said Richard Ramsden, a Wall Street economic consultant, spent two working days on the report and received \$242 for the services.

Ramsden's report was a key factor in the anti-trust division's decision last July 31 to drop its suit against the merger of the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. and the Hartford Fire Insurance Co.

The Judiciary committee is investigating that decision to determine if it had any relationship with a reported \$400,000 offer by ITT to underwrite the Republican na-

tional convention. The administration has denied any connection and Attorney General-designate Richard Kleindienst has defended the ITT-Hartford settlement as "one of the great chapters in anti-trust history."

Sen. John Tunney, (D-Calif.), said Ramsden's consulting firm managed a portfolio that contained \$200,000 worth of ITT stock. He has challenged the Nixon Administration to submit evidence to the committee that a possible conflict of interest by Ramsden was investigated before he was asked to make the study.

Ramsden's report was a highly technical study of the impact of a Hartford-ITT divestiture on the stock market and the balance of payments. He claimed it would lead to a \$1.2 billion loss to the company stockholders and indirectly diminish ITT's contribution toward holding down the U.S. balance of payments deficit.

"I read the report and found it persuasive," U.S. Judge Richard McLaren said last week when he acknowledged that Ramsden was hired for the job and given instructions by Peter Flanigan, a White House aide with ties to Wall Street.