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Probe Asked In Delay of IBM Suit

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A Democratic candidate for Congress demanded an investigation yesterday into the slow pace of an antitrust suit filed by the Justice Department against IBM.

James Stewart, a 34-year-old lawyer who is seeking the nomination for the 17th Congressional district, said 10,000 computer jobs on the Peninsula "are in jeopardy" if IBM's monopoly continues unchecked.

He told a press conference that the antitrust suit was filed by the Johnson administration in 1969 and said little has been done since then.

Stewart said Congress should investigate "the relationship between IBM, the Justice Department and the Republican party."

KENNEDY

He said he will ask for a formal Congressional investigation in a telegram and letter to Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass).

Stewart is one of five Democrats vying for the party nomination in the 17th district, which extends south from Hillsborough to San Jose.

He said IBM has 75 per cent of the computer market locked up and collects 96 per cent of the industry's pre-tax income.

FIRMS

The Peninsula computer firms hurt by IBM's monopoly include Memorex Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, Advanced Memory Systems, Symbolic Control, Signetics, Control Data and Data Processing, Stewart said.

At the time the suit was filed, IBM termed it "unwarranted" and said there was ample evidence of "the open and strongly competitive nature of the computer business."

A spokesman for the Justice Department here declined comment on Stewart's charges, while an IBM spokesman in New York said:

"Any charges or implications of wrong-doing are absolutely without merit."