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I.T.T. IS ACCUSED ON SALE OF PLANT

Union Official Sees Attempt
to Bypass Trust Pact
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By MICHAEL C. JENSEN

A union official in Cranston, R. I., has protested to four Senators that the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation may be trying to circumvent the terms of its antitrust agreement to sell part of the Grinnell Corporation.

Charles F. Adams, president of Local 4756 of the United Steelworkers of America, charged that I.T.T. was retaining its pipe-fitting operation in Rhode Island, which he said was an important part of the manufacturing process of sprinkler systems made by Grinnell, an I.T.T. subsidiary.

I.T.T. has been ordered by the Justice Department to dispose of the Grinnell division that makes sprinkler systems as part of an over-all antitrust agreement that allowed it keep the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

The giant conglomerate is being investigated by the Senate Judiciary Committee because of an alleged link between the antitrust settlement and a contribution to the Republican National Convention next summer.

An I.T.T. spokesman, queried about Mr. Adams's charge, said, "We are acting in good faith."

A telegram, released this week by Mr. Adams, was sent last month to Democratic Senators Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Philip A. Hart of Michigan, and Claiborne Pell and John O. Pastore of Rhode Island.

"[We] protest strongly [the] I.T.T. merger agreements," the telegram said. "We have a collective bargaining agreement with I.T.T. Grinnell in Cranston, R.I. We never had an opportunity to register a protest against the merger agreement.

"We were, however, affected by the loss of approximately 100 jobs. We wonder whether I.T.T. even attempts to proceed in good faith with the agreement inasmuch as it appears the pipe fittings, which are an integral part of sprinkler systems, are to continue to be manufactured by I.T.T. Grinnell.

"We wish to protest the confirmation of [Richard] Kleindienst [as Attorney General] until this matter is completely investigated."

Mr. Adams, whose union is on strike at the Cranston plant, said in a telephone interview that about 30 per cent of the pipe fittings manufactured at Cranston were used in the I.T.T. Grinnell Fire Protection Division.