

2 Reinecke Statements --A Conflict

San Diego

Records of a U.S. Senate committee appear to contradict a statement by Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke about his testimony last year involving former Attorney General John Mitchell, it was reported yesterday.

Reinecke said in an interview last week that he told Mitchell over the telephone in May or June of 1971 that the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. had offered to help underwrite the 1972 Republican Convention in San Diego.

At the time, the Justice Department, which Mitchell headed, had an antitrust suit pending against the utility conglomerate. The suit was later dropped. Mitchell denied knowing about the ITT convention offer before the suit was settled.

Reinecke, who once told reporters he had met with Mitchell personally to tell him of the ITT offer, testified before a Senate committee last year that no such meeting took place. Asked last week to reconcile his testimony with the statement about the phone call, he said no one had ever asked him about a telephone conversation.

TRANSCRIPT

But a portion of the Senate hearings transcript contained the following exchange between Reinecke and Senator Hiram Fong (Rep-Hawaii):

Fong: "So the only time you discussed the convention with Mr. Mitchell was in September (1971) after the ITT case had already been settled?"

Reinecke: "That is correct, Senator."

The testimony is published in today's San Diego Union.

COMMENT

Asked about the testimony yesterday; Reinecke said, "I can see how this could be read" as a contradiction.

He added, "My reading of the testimony reaffirms the statement I made. I was not asked about a telephone call. All the questions pertained to actual face - to - face meetings."

Reinecke, considered a potential Republican nominee for governor next year, has been questioned by investigators assigned by special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox to determine whether Reinecke, Mitchell or both committed perjury before the Senate committee.

Associated Press