ITT's Offer

I Told Mitchell, Reinecke Insists

Sacramento

Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke yesterday contradicted former U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell's testimony denying he knew of an ITT offer of financial backing for the 1972 Republican National Convention.

Reinecke said he told Mitchell in a telephone call in May or June, 1971, that Sheraton Hotels, an ITT subsidiary, had offered to underwrite costs of holding the convention in San Diego.

That was before the Justice Department, which Mitchell headed at that time, announced settlement of an antitrust suit against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

TESTIMONY

Mitchell told the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1972 that he did not discuss the Sheraton-ITT offer with Reinecke during the spring of 1971. The hearing was called to investigate reports that ITT won a favorable settlement of the case after making the reported $400,000 convention pledge.

The convention site later was moved to Miami Beach, Fla.

Reinecke said he has related his recollection of the events to FBI agents probing the possibility of perjury by either Reinecke or Mitchell. That investigation was requested by special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Mitchell later quit as attorney general to run President Nixon's re-election campaign, resigned that job and now is under indictment involving the receipt of campaign funds.

CONTRADICTION

Asked yesterday in a hallway interview if Mitchell was lying, Reinecke replied: "I didn't want to use that word or suggest anything of that nature."

Asked if his statement

UPI photo
ED REINECKE
A contradiction

didn't contradict Mitchell's, Reinecke said, "It would appear to be in contradiction, yes."

During the March 1972 Senate hearing, Mitchell was asked: "Did Mr. Reinecke ever discuss, to your knowledge, in May or April the ITT offer to bring the Republican convention to San Diego?"

Mitchell replied, "No, senator. As far as I can tell, Mr. Reinecke must have had me mixed up with somebody else because he did not meet me in May."

Associated Press