

Reinecke Defense Winds Up Its Case

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The defense for California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke wound up its case in his perjury trial yesterday by calling on one of his political foes as a character witness and trying unsuccessfully to find major flaws in the transcript on which the indictment is based.

Reinecke, a conservative Republican protege of Gov. Ronald Reagan, is accused of lying to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. case.

In U.S. District Court here yesterday he received a handshake and warm praise from California State Assemblyman Willie L. Brown, a black Democrat who heads the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee and was an early supporter of George McGovern for President.

"You can rely on Ed Reinecke if he tells you something," Brown told the jury of eight blacks and four whites.

Reinecke's other character witnesses were a black woman who heads a foster parents group, a Mexican-American civic leader, and the bearded white minister of Reinecke's church.

All said the 50-year-old lieutenant governor has a reputation for being honest.

In the indictment, Reinecke is charged with lying when he told the Senate committee

that the only time he and then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell discussed ITR's offer to help finance the 1972 Republican National Convention was in September, 1971. This was two months after the Justice Department had settled its antitrust cases against the company, and backed up a statement Mitchell had made previously.

Reinecke has admitted he informed Mitchell about the \$400,000 offer in telephone conversations during May and June, 1971, while the settlement was being negotiated.

But he said he did not tell a deliberate lie to the committee at the April, 1972, hearing, because he thought the senators' questions dealt only with face-to-face meetings he had with Mitchell.

Judge Barrington D. Parker rejected defense motions to dismiss the indictment on the basis of transcript flaws, and said the case would be sent to the jury after closing argument today.