

Reinecke Will Quit at Sentencing

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Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke said yesterday he will resign tomorrow as he is being sentenced in a Washington D.C. courtroom for his perjury conviction.

Reinecke submitted to the Secretary of State's office a letter resigning the \$35,000-a-year job he has held since 1969, effective when sentence is pronounced.

The 50-year-old engineer-turned politician is California's acting governor until Governor Ronald Reagan flies back to Los Angeles this afternoon from a five-day political speaking tour to eight other states.

Reinecke was convicted in July of lying to a U.S. Senate committee about the dates on which he talked with former Attorney General John Mitchell about an ITT offer to help financially underwrite the 1972 Republican National convention, then set for San Diego.

Under Article five, Section five of the state Constitution, the governor has the legal authority to fill the vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor until a successor qualifies by election this November.

"The governor will act expeditiously to fill the vacancy," said Reagan's press secretary Clyde Walthall. He said several possible appointees are under consideration.

One of those considered a frontrunner, state Senator John Harmer, the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, promptly said he'd succeed Reinecke if asked.

"I have come to the conclusion that if he (Reagan) were to offer the appointment to me, I would accept it," said Harmer, 40, a conservative from Glendale.

Harmer conceded that critics, including presumably his Democratic opponent, Senator Mervyn Dymally, might consider such a succession "political dealing, political gamesmanship."

"I'm sure there will be those who will say it was a case of political opportun-

ism," said Harmer.

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ism," said Harmer. But, he said, to refuse the job would be hypocritical and inconsistent with his year-long effort to obtain the job by election.

Reinecke was appointed lieutenant governor in 1969 by Reagan, then won the job at the polls in the 1970 election as Reagan's running-mate.

A congressman from Southern California from 1964 to 1969, Reinecke is in line for state and federal pension benefits totaling \$16,000 a year when he reaches age 60, according to a Reinecke staff aide.

The Reinecke announcement appeared to render moot a legislative resolution to impeach him, submitted yesterday by Assemblyman Richard Alatorre (Dem-L.A.), with the support of the reformist People's Lobby.

The resolution was referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for study, but Jack Johnson, press aid to Assembly Speaker Leo T. McCarthy (Dem-S.F.) said: "Unless he (Reinecke) gets a continuance in court it's a futile act."

Reinecke informed the press of his resignation in a terse, one-paragraph statement. It said:

"In view of the judge's decision last Friday to deny my post-trial motions, I will resign as lieutenant governor simultaneously with my sentencing by the trial court, which, is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, in Washington, D.C.