

Reagan Blames Watergate

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Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday the Watergate scandal and inflation hampered Republican candidates in Tuesday's election.

"The whole atmosphere of Watergate was involved and there was no way to over-

come it," said Reagan, adding that though the gubernatorial contest was "extremely close" the election as a whole "was clouded by the affair at Watergate."

Reagan said he will miss the job he has held for eight years, especially "being where the action is."

He said that despite the election results in California and nationally, the Republican Party is closer on the issues of what the people want than is the Democratic Party.

But, he said, the Republicans have not been able to overcome a bad image and

reach the voters.

"The Republican Party's failure has been one of communication," said Reagan. "We have not overcome that image."

Our Correspondent