

Earlier Trial Date Likely For Reinecke

Washington

The perjury trial of California's Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke will in all probability, be held before that state's primary election in which he is seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Barrington D. Parker tentatively set trial date for June 19, two weeks after the June 4 primary.

But Reinecke's attorney, F. Joseph Donohue, argued that a trial debate, in early or mid-May was preferred so that "Reinecke's innocence may be established before the primaries."

Yesterday Parker called Donohue and government attorneys into chamber conference.

Reinecke, who had pleaded "absolutely not guilty" during his arraignment Wednesday, was back in California yesterday and not present when Parker set May 13 as the date when he would hear all motions. One of these will be a motion for the trial to be moved to California from the District of Columbia.

The judge said that depending on his rulings, "the trial will begin immediately thereafter."

It is believed the trial will last about a week. This

would give Reinecke about three weeks in which to campaign before the primaries.

Reinecke is charged in a federal indictment returned April 3 with lying to a Senate committee investigating the nomination of former U.S. Attorney General Richard Kleindienst. The committee was investigating an alleged connection between a guarantee of funds for the 1972 Republican national convention and the out-of-court settlement of an antitrust case against International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

The indictment charges that Reinecke lied when he said that as far as he knew the then attorney general John Mitchell, was not aware that ITT had offered a \$400,000 convention guarantee before Reinecke told him about it on Sept. 17, 1971. Settlement of the ITT case was announced July 31, 1971.

Both Donohue and special prosecutor Richard J. Davis said after yesterday's session they were "happy" about the tentative early trial date.

(In Sacramento, Reinecke's office issued a statement in which the lieutenant governor proclaimed himself "absolutely ! jubilant" about the development.

This is a victory for the people of California," he said. "My attorneys are still hopeful for a California trial. I would like to be judged by my peers, the people of California."