

Reinecke Quits, Gets Suspended Sentence

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Ed Reinecke, who resigned as lieutenant governor of California at noon yesterday, was sentenced here to a suspended 18-month jail term a half-hour later for lying to a Senate committee about the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. case.

Reinecke bitterly maintained his innocence after the sentence, and said he would appeal his conviction despite receiving a sentence that does not require him to be jailed.

"As a man who feels strongly that he is not guilty, any sentence is wrong," Reinecke said, as he embraced his wife, Jean, after the sentencing procedure.

Reinecke said, as he had previously, that "if I erred, and I don't believe I did, it was in being overly cooperative" with prosecutors. He portrayed himself as being tricked by prosecutors into providing documents that were used as evidence against him.

U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker dis-

agreed with Reinecke's assessment of himself. He told Reinecke he was "a victim of your own selfish ambition."

Parker twice sternly interrupted Reinecke or his attorney as they pleaded for mercy and said bluntly that he thought the jury returned a correct verdict in the case.

Reinecke told the judge that "I still do not feel I am guilty" and again spoke of the effect the case had on him and his family.

He then stood erect in front of the judge as Parker told him that "the fact you have been in public office for 10 years poses . . . the highest obligation" for truth and honesty on Reinecke.

Parker said it was difficult for him to accept Reinecke's explanation that he was tired and confused when he answered the Senate committee's questions and that he did not intend to mislead the Senate panel.

He then imposed an 18-month jail sentence, and Rei-

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necke bowed his head. After a brief pause, Judge Parker said, "I will suspend the execution of the sentence." Judge Parker also placed Reinecke on one month's unsupervised probation.

In California, Gov. Ronald Reagan issued a statement saying, "I am sorry all this happened. I feel sorry for Ed and his family."

Reagan is expected to appoint a successor to Reinecke almost immediately. Speculation centered around state Sen. John Harmer, a conservative Los Angeles Republican who is running for the lieutenant governorship in the November general election.

Reinecke is one of a series of government officials or politicians who have been given light or suspended prison terms after pleas or convictions.

The only other person charged in the Watergate special prosecutor's ongoing investigation into the ITT case was former Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, who entered a plea of guilty to a charge of refusing to testify accurately before the Senate committee hearing his nomination.

Kleindienst received a one-month suspended sentence and a suspended \$100 fine.

With the exception of a minimum seven-year sentence imposed on former White House aide G. Gordon Liddy, the sentences in Watergate-related cases have ranged from 30 days to four years in jail.

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew pleaded "no contest" to tax evasion charges and was given a suspended sentence of three years and a \$10,000 fine.

Reinecke made no effort after the sentencing to hide his bitterness about the prosecution. He said that "justice was not properly done" and that he would raise numerous issues on appeals, including charges that unspecified witnesses committed perjury.

During the sentencing proceeding, Reinecke was wearing a miniature gold hangman's noose on the lapel of his white double knit suit. He said it was in reference to "Hangtown" — the original name of his hometown, Placerville, Calif.