Presidential Commission   FEB 7 1975

Reagan's Absenteeism Probe of CIA

Washington

Former California Governor Ronald Reagan has missed three of the four weekly meetings of the presidential commission investigating the Central Intelligence Agency.

Reagan told President Ford when he was asked to join the panel that his speaking engagements might conflict with the meetings.

According to Reagan's secretary in his Los Angeles office, Mr. Ford told the California Republican that this "would not present a problem," presumably on the basis that Reagan could catch up by reading the transcripts of the missing sessions, which already total hundreds of pages.

Reagan, one of eight men appointed by Mr. Ford to a special commission to look into allegations of illegal domestic activities by the CIA, was present for the opening meeting and left before the day-long session ended.

Reagan, the panel chairman, was asked about Reagan's absenteeism after a meeting last Monday. He said that he expected Reagan to be present for the February 17 meeting, and added: "He'll have a lot of far, some more than once.

None of the other members, according to the commission's public affairs director, has missed a meeting.

Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, the panel chairman, was asked about Reagan's absenteeism after a meeting last Monday. He said that he expected Reagan to be present for the February 17 meeting, and added: "He'll have a lot of reading to do."

According to the commission staff, Reagan has not shown up at its headquarters, where the transcripts are kept.

The commission meets on Mondays in a conference room in the vice president's suite of offices in the Old Executive Office Building, next door to the White House. Seven witnesses, all present or former top CIA officials, have testified thus far, some more than once.

Reagan has a daily five-minute radio show, writes a newspaper column and maintains a strenuous speaking schedule. During January, according to his secretary, he gave seven addresses to such groups as the International Safari Club, in Las Vegas and the Public Forum in Richmond, Va.

Reagan has 11 speaking engagements scheduled for February, according to his secretary, and a like number for March.

New York Times