

# Reagan Defends Thieu 1-Man

Examiner News Services

SINGAPORE — California Governor Ronald Reagan said today criticism of the recent one-man presidential election in South Vietnam was overplayed because such elections happened in Communist countries all the time.

Paul Beck, press affairs officer for Reagan, announced the Governor would fly to Saigon Friday to accept a luncheon invitation from South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. He said Reagan was doing so "at the request of the White House."

Addressing newsmen on the second stop of his Asian tour, the Governor said, "If you're going to get so terribly worked up over South Vietnam having a one-man election, I don't recall any similar comment about the fact that the only election

ever held in North Vietnam was a one-man election for Ho Chi Minh."

"No one seems to be saying anything about easily a score of nations that consistently have one-man elections."

A newsman said perhaps

## Election Vote

that was because Americans weren't fighting in other countries. "No, and I doubt if we will be in the foreseeable future," Reagan said, causing laughter.

Reagan and his wife arrived in Singapore today for a one-day visit after as-

suring Nationalist Chinese leaders of America's determination to keep Chiang Kai-shek's regime in the United Nations.

Before leaving Taipei, he told an airport news conference that most Americans "would certainly want a

great deal of thought given" to whether the United States should withdraw from the United Nations or cut off funds to the world body if Nationalist China is expelled.

"Most Americans are determined that the Republic of China has a place . . . in all international councils including the United Nations," said Reagan, President Nixon's

personal representative on an Asian tour.

Reagan met for an hour yesterday with President Chiang and said his talks "ended, I think, on a very solid note of optimism."

Reagan's schedule in Singapore included a call on Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and lunch with President B. H. Sheares.

Tues., Oct. 12, 1971 ☆☆☆☆ S. J. Examiner — Page 5