

# Reagan Says Nixon Was 'Forthright'

## Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday he believes President Nixon acted properly in the Watergate affair, and that the President's speech was "frank and forthright."

Reagan, who had refused to comment on the case for two days, told reporters he had called the White House after Mr. Nixon's address Monday night.

"I asked that the word be passed along that I approved of it, thought it would do a lot of good, and that I understood the position," he said.

Asked what affect Mr. Nixon's speech would have on the Republican party, the governor replied: "I think it was more aimed at what it did for the American people."

"The real tragedy is that out of a stupid attempt at doing something in all the heat and fervor of a campaign, something was done that contributed to a wave of feeling that has been spreading throughout this country for longer than this administration — a mistrust in our American institutions and in government itself," he said.

Reaction from members of the Legislature found Republicans praising the speech and Democrats being somewhat more restrained in their enthusiasm.

Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke, a candidate for the GOP gubernatorial nomination next year, said the President's address was "the most sincere, forthright, I've ever heard. He courageously accepted full blame for the Watergate affair while at the same time making it clear he had no knowledge of it prior to the published disclosures."

Democratic State Senator George Moscone, of San Francisco, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, called the speech "an appeal to the understanding and sympathy of the American people that he had no personal knowledge of the Watergate break-in. It was a speech he had to make."

*Our Correspondent*