

The Changing Reinecke Story

By Sydney Kossen

Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke is a candidate for the flip-flop award of the week.

At least three times he has switched dates on the question of when he talked to John N. Mitchell about an International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation offer to help finance the 1972 Republican National Convention at San Diego.

And Reinecke admitted he was wrong on the source of his air travel funds. The state picked up the tab, after all, for his controversial journey to Washington.

Reinecke's latest statement on dates coincided with Mitchell's ordeal before the Senate Watergate Committee. The former U.S. attorney general was burdened with his own problem of placing last year's events in what he called their "time frame."

Sidestep

Clearly Reinecke wants to sidestep Mitchell's misfortunes.

The 49 year old lieutenant governor also hopes to erase the threat of a possible perjury charge by Special Watergate Prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Reinecke told The Examiner he always answers questions fully. He tries not to sound beleaguered and says he would welcome an early official investigation.

Yet even friendly Republicans concede that those date switches and related developments may take some of the bloom of Reinecke's

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early-rising 1974 campaign for Governor.

There have been other problems.

A member of the lieutenant governor's staff tried to be a man of influence. Reinecke fired him for improper use of his position. And former White House aide Lyn Nofziger, now Reinecke's professional political adviser, has been linked to the construction of a Nixon Administration "enemy list." Not true, Nofziger says.

In 1971 President Nixon made it known that he wanted to be renominated the following year in his home state. He chose San Diego, just a short helicopter lift from the executive pad in San Clemente.

Reinecke set out to promote the idea.

ITT

The Sheraton hotel chain, a subsidiary of ITT, offered to underwrite up to \$400,000 in GOP convention costs. Reinecke was delighted.

At the time he may not



LT. GOV. REINECKE
Changing dates

have known that ITT was enmeshed in anti-trust difficulties with the Justice Department, then headed by "Iron Duke" Mitchell.

The convention site later shifted to Miami Beach.

In April, 1972 at the request of the White House, Reinecke flew to Washington to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee, investigating possible links between the ITT offer and favorable settlement of the anti-trust case.

Contradictions

And from this appearance stems the bewildering contradictions which Reinecke attributes to a lack of specific questions to him from investigators.

First, Reinecke told newsmen he had discussed the offer with Mitchell in the spring of 1971. Then he told reporters and later the committee that the offer had not been relayed to the attorney general until September — two months after the ITT case was settled.

Mitchell testified before the committee that he knew nothing about the offer.