

Reinecke's Futile Plea To Jaworski

Los Angeles

California Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke said yesterday that special Water-gate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski has refused to give him the "official clearance of my name" he requested in connection with the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. case.

Reinecke, back from a three-day trip to Washington, D.C., where he sought to get his case resolved, disclosed in a dramatic appearance before a meeting of the California Newspaper Publishers Association that two of his attorneys had met with Jaworski Thursday afternoon.

"I felt that I deserved immediate determination of my total absolution of any wrongdoing so that I could once and for all clear the cloud which has been hanging over my campaign for (the Republican nomination for) governor," Reinecke said.

"Yesterday, my attorneys made a presentation to Mr. Jaworski in person and asked for immediate and official clearance. This Mr.

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Jaworski's office refused to do. I am very disappointed about this decision. . . .

"In a final attempt to get a decision," he said, "I yesterday offered to take a lie detector test. To this moment, I have not heard whether my offer has been accepted or rejected.

"Ladies and gentlemen, and all of the people of California, I can wait no longer. As of this moment, I am taking my case to the people of the State of California.

"I am in the governor's race to stay," he said. "I honestly prefer to have them — the people of California — make that determination as to whether or not I am entitled to their trust and their

confidence for the next four years.

"Next week, I intend to hold a press briefing to explain chronologically every single detail of all events involved in this matter."

Aides said later this will probably be Wednesday or Thursday in Los Angeles.

The lieutenant governor and former U.S. Attorney General John N. Mitchell are reportedly under investigation to determine whether they perjured themselves in testimony before a 1972 hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning their private conversations about an ITT offer to help finance the 1972 GOP National Convention.

The central question relating to Reinecke reportedly involves when he told Mitchell that ITT had offered to contribute as much as \$400,000 for the convention.

Mitchell has said Reinecke did not tell him about the offer until after a July 31, 1971, settlement of a Justice Department antitrust case against ITT that was favorable to the company. Reinecke has given varying accounts, but now says he did tell Mitchell about it before the settlement.

In a news conference yesterday afternoon, following his talk to the newspaper publishers, Reinecke all but called Mitchell a liar and hinted broadly that he would be willing to testify against him if the former attorney general is indicted in the matter.

Asked directly if Mitchell did know about the ITT offer to help finance the convention before July 1971, Reinecke replied bluntly, "Yes."

When reminded that Mitchell contends that Reinecke did not tell him of it before that month, the lieutenant governor shot back:

"And I can only contend and have the phone records to prove that I did talk with Mr. Mitchell and it's my belief and my recollection that we did discuss this matter."

Reinecke's trouble apparently stems in part from the fact that he told the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 19, 1972, that he had discussed the matter with Mitchell Sept. 17, 1971, several weeks after the antitrust settlement.

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