

Reinecke Indicted in ITT Case



LT. GOV. ED REINECKE
... denies charges

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California's Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke was indicted for perjury in the ITT case yesterday in the midst of his campaign for the Republican nomination for governor.

Reinecke, who had been publicly and indignantly pressing Watergate prosecutors for a decision on his status, got his answer when a federal grand jury returned the charges against him at the U. S. courthouse

here a few minutes after noon.

He was accused on three counts of lying to the Senate Judiciary Committee about efforts to bring the 1972 Republican National Convention to San Diego with financial help from an International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. subsidiary. ITT offered \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the convention at a time when the corporation was facing a barrage of antitrust suits from the Justice Department.

The indictment was re-

turned to U. S. District Court Judge George L. Hart Jr., who promptly exploded over what appeared to be a premature leak of the information that Reinecke had been indicted.

Hart angrily told Watergate prosecutors that an aide from the office of U. S. Rep. Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.) turned up in the judge's chambers yesterday morning and asked for "a copy of the indictment against Lt. Gov. Reinecke."

See INDICT, A9, Col. 7

INDICT, From A1

"That was 27 minutes before this indictment was returned," Hart exclaimed. He called the episode "an obvious, outright violation" of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure which prohibit disclosure of matters before a grand jury without a judge's approval.

Waldie, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, is seeking the Democratic nomination for governor of California.

The new chief judge of the U.S. District Court here, Hart summoned Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski before him in an effort to track down the source of the leak. The judge was considerably mollified when Jaworski said it appeared to be simply a case of newsmen "putting 2 and 2 together" and then mentioning it to Waldie's office.

The indictment seemed to threaten disaster for Reinecke's gubernatorial chances in California, but he insisted at a news conference in Sacramento that he has no intention of dropping out of the race.

Hinting of a plot against him by unnamed persons, Reinecke said: "I am innocent. I will not plead guilty. There will be no plea bargaining. I intend to fight this action."

Each of the three counts against him carries a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison and a \$2,000 fine.

The 50-year-old Reinecke was indicted for his testimony on April 19, 1972, during Senate hearings on President Nixon's nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst as Attorney General.

The hearings amounted to an investigation of charges that promises of ITT financing for the Republican convention had influenced the Justice Department to agree to an out-of-court settlement of the antitrust cases against the giant conglomerate. The settlement was announced on July 31, 1971.

Reinecke was called as a witness following statements to the press that he and one of his aides had met with then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell in mid-May of 1971 "to discuss efforts to hold the convention in San Diego."

Under questioning by Sen. Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii) at the hearings, however, Reinecke said he was mistaken about the date and swore that he had no such discussion with Mitchell until September of 1971—after the ITT settlement.

"So the only time you discussed the convention with Mr. Mitchell was in September after the ITT case had already been settled?" Fong asked at one point.

"That is correct, senator," Reinecke replied.

Underscoring those words in the indictment, the grand jury said Reinecke "then and there well knew" that they were false.

Reinecke also testified that he told Mitchell of the ITT financial pledge but got the impression that the Attorney General had already heard of it, perhaps from Rep. Bob Wilson (R-Calif.), a San Diegoan who was chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. By the time he met with Mitchell in September, Reinecke swore that he had "no way of knowing whether or not he (Mitchell) had heard of the commitments prior to the time that I am speaking of."

The grand jury said this, too, was a lie.

Finally, Reinecke also told the Senate committee that the first discussion he had ever had about the chances of landing the Republican convention for San Diego was at a reception at Republican National Committee headquarters on April 27, 1971—during one of his visits to Washington.

"I was back here for reasons of economic development and while we were here, there was a social reception that was attended by a large group of people from San Diego who happened to be in town on their

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California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke pauses to answer a question after being indicted on perjury charges.

own, for their own reasons; but at the same time I think they were Chamber of Commerce people and we discussed the possibility at that point and that was where the idea really hatched," Reinecke testified.

All that, the grand jury charged, was also a lie.

Reinecke told Watergate prosecutors earlier this year that he was willing to testify that Attorney General Mitchell lied in denying knowledge of the ITT offer for San Diego convention financing. At the same time, Reinecke maintained that he was genuinely confused at the time of his Senate testimony and told no intentional falsehoods.

Fighting to keep his political career afloat, the Californian later got the approval of Watergate prosecutors for a two-day lie detector test which FBI agents gave him in Sacramento last month.

The results of the test have not been disclosed, but they evidently failed to exonerate the lieutenant governor. When he accused Watergate prosecutors of "deliberate delay" in an interview Monday with the Los Angeles Times, Jaworski's office responded by securing yesterday's indictment.

Reinecke's attorneys in California were notified of the about-to-be-public indictment by Watergate prosecutors after the grand jury voted on it yesterday morning. Jaworski told Judge Hart at yesterday afternoon's hearing that the lieutenant governor then scheduled his Sacramento news conference to reply to the forthcoming accusations.

"Then the possibility is that the information comes from Mr. Reinecke himself?" Judge Hart asked of the premature visit to his chambers by a 22-year-old Waldie intern named Russ Teall.

"That is a possibility," Watergate Assistant Prosecutor Joseph J. Connolly, head of the ITT task force, replied.

Actually, two Washington-based reporters for the Rider newspapers in California, Al Eisele and Gil Bailey, said they concluded the Reinecke indictment was coming simply on the strength of the standard announcement by Jaworski's office yesterday morning that "there will be a proceeding in Chief Judge George L. Hart's court at noon . . ."

"It's been known in California and back here that Reinecke was just about due," Bailey told other newsmen. He said he passed his conclusions on to Waldie's press secretary, Bob Neuman, who then sent Teall to wait around for a copy of the indictment. Instead, he walked into the judge's chambers.

"He was just overzealous," Neuman told reporters.