

Too Slow

Reagan Blast at Impeach Inquiry

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Washington

Governor Ronald Reagan said here yesterday he believes the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee wants to drag out impeachment proceedings against Richard Nixon for two more years.

Reagan told a crowded press conference: "I think Chairman (Peter) Rodino (Dem-N.J.) and some of his committee would like to go on investigating from here through 1976."

Reagan said he feels that the American people, to the contrary, "want this question resolved as quickly as possible."

Reagan said he was "very impressed" with President Nixon's statements at his press conference Wednesday.

"I think what he offered to make available is going a long way and should be satisfactory (to the judiciary committee)."

With reference to his remark made here Wednesday that "it's just too bad we can't have an epidemic of botulism" in the food distribution program brought about by the Hearst kidnaping, Reagan said:

"It was made at a completely private gathering. I used a very ludicrous statement simply to express the frustration."

Reagan said that "of course" he was not advocating any such idea as a botulism epidemic.

Representative Jerome R. Waldie (Dem-Antioch) said he found Reagan's comment disquieting. "Insensitive, heavy-handed, ugly attempts at humor on the part of the governor . . . must only add to the dangers Patty Hearst is already experi-

encing," he said.

("I don't expect the governor to understand the problems and the tragedy of poor and hungry people," Waldie said, "but surely he must recognize that his irresponsible comments endanger Patty Hearst. Governor, keep quiet — please.")

Reagan leaves here today to go to Hartford, Conn., to address the Republican State Committee there.

He appeared somewhat nettled when a reporter asked if the needs of California taxpayers would not be better served if he were to return to his desk in Sacramento rather than going to "Hartford, for God's sake, Connecticut."

Reagan said, "Let me explain that. If I went back to Sacramento tomorrow I would not get in until late Friday night.

"Instead, I'm going to Connecticut to do a political chore and then I'm going back to California Saturday on my own time. I'll be at my desk Monday morning."

Reagan was sanguine about the fuel shortage in California, saying that he feels that March will be better than February as far as long lines at gas stations are concerned.

Reagan was listening to energy chief William Simon address the National Governor's Conference here earlier in the day when he was besieged by reporters who urged him to leave the auditorium at the Washington Hilton to meet with them.

When he agreed, almost all of the national press covering the conference followed him out into the corridor, leaving Simon looking somewhat bemused.