

Reinecke Pleads Not Guilty

By Ronald J. Ostrow
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California Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke pleaded "absolutely not guilty" to federal perjury charges yesterday, and U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker set his trial for June 19—two weeks after the California primary.

But pressed by Reinecke's lawyer to try the case before the June 4 election in which the 50-year-old lieutenant governor is seeking the Republican nomination for governor, Parker said he would consider moving the trial up to May 20.

Parker questioned what justification he would have for trying Reinecke ahead of other criminal case defendants, "some of whom are languishing in custody. I don't think I should make any special dispensation," Parker said, adding that he would consider Reinecke's request "very carefully."

The judge took under consideration Reinecke's motion to move the trial to federal court in San Francisco or Sacramento. Reinecke contended that his absence from California "imposes an undue burden on citizens of that state," that it would cost him at least \$10,000 to bring 20 defense witnesses to Washington and that he deserves to be judged by his "peers" in California.

During the 15-minute court

proceeding and the 40-minute mugging and fingering that followed, Reinecke received little of the special treatment court officials provided for former presidential aids and former administration figures indicted in recent Watergate matters.

While a special court session was held to arraign the seven defendants in the Watergate cover-up conspiracy, for example, Reinecke had to wait 15 minutes as Parker disposed of preliminary proceedings in three other criminal cases, two of them involving youths accused of illegal drug possession.

After the arraignment, Reinecke was escorted to the clerk's office on the ground floor of the federal court building by Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal James F. Palmer. There Reinecke signed personal bond papers and raised his right hand to swear that he understood the conditions of his release.

These included giving up his passport and staying in touch with his lawyers. He was then led by another deputy marshal across the street to the headquarters of the District of Columbia metropolitan police department.

Reporters were ordered out of the cell block while Reinecke was fingerprinted and photographed. The number 281912 was placed in front of his chest while a single, head-on picture was taken of the unsmiling Reinecke.

As Reinecke walked back across the street to go before television cameras, he told a reporter who walked with him that he was last fingerprinted in 1942, when he joined the Navy.

The lieutenant governor showed little sign of strain inside the courtroom or before the cameras. He denounced the indictment as "unprofessional—similar to a \$5 traffic ticket in most courts," and questioned whether it was motivated by politics.