

Jaworski Counters Reinecke

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California Lt. Gov. Ed. Reinecke's first contact in a controversial effort to bring the 1972 Republican National Convention to San Diego was with former White House chief of staff H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, according to Watergate special prosecutors.

Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski made the accusation in U.S. District Court Wednesday in a sharply worded memo supporting the three-count indictment for perjury against Reinecke earlier this month.

He was charged with three counts of lying in Senate testimony about attempts, which were finally abandoned, to bring the GOP convention to San Diego with financial help from a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

ITT offered \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the San Diego site at a time when the giant conglomerate was facing a barrage of antitrust suits from the Justice Department.

One of the charges in the Reinecke indictment was that he perjured himself when he swore that the first discussion he had about the chance of landing the GOP convention in San Diego was at a reception at Republican National Committee headquarters here on April 27, 1971, during a visit to Washington. He said he ran into a group of San Diego businessmen "and that

was where the idea really hatched."

Jaworski said the prosecution intends to prove instead "that the first person with whom Reinecke discussed the possibility of the convention's being in San Diego was H. R. Haldeman."

The Watergate special prosecutor did not elaborate on the charge. Jaworski aides refused to say when the discussion was held, but it apparently involved a telephone call disclosed by Haldeman's White House logs.

In its so-called white paper on the ITT controversy, the White House denied that the offer of convention financing had any connection with the government's decision to settle the ITT antitrust cases out of court. The settlement was announced on July 31, 1971.

A White House staff report submitted to Haldeman did recommend San Diego as the convention site, partly because of the city's "relatively large bid in money and services," but the White House has said the report "made no mention of ITT."

Still campaigning for the Republican nomination for governor in California, Reinecke has charged that he is being prosecuted because of his "political affiliation and status." Jaworski denounced the protest as "transparently baseless" and emphasized that Reinecke had submitted no evidence to back it up.

The prosecutors also took sharp issue with Reinecke's contention that he had been assured he would not be indicted if he "cooperated fully" with the ITT investigation.

In fact, Watergate Assistant Prosecutor Richard J. Davis said in an affidavit, Reinecke was warned in early February that he could expect to be charged with perjury. Reinecke went ahead and formally filed as a candidate for the nomination for governor on Feb. 26.