

Reinecke Trial Delayed

By George Murphy

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., yesterday delayed the perjury trial of California Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke.

Judge Barrington D. Parker said the delay was made at the request of Reinecke's defense attorney.

No date has been set for the trial, the judge said. It had been scheduled to begin May 13.

But, he added, "it could very well be past the primary (election) date."

The primary election will be held in California on June 4.

Parker told newsmen after a hearing in chambers that the May 13 date for hearing pre-trial motions still will be kept.

One of these motions is for a change of venue from the District of Columbia to California.

In Ontario, Calif., Reinecke, who had earlier been pressing for a trial before the election, said there was "nothing unusual" about asking for the delay.

"The delay is only a matter of a few days," he said. "It is still possible to have the trial before May 20, as originally intended."

"The two most important

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things are that the trial be held in California and before the primary."

Reinecke said the delay request came after his attorneys notified the judge that if the venue change were not granted they would need time to appeal.

Parker had met in chambers with Reinecke's Washington attorney, F. Joseph Donohue, and prosecution attorneys from the office of special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

The judge issued a statement saying that Donohue would not object to having the trial after June 1 "because the case is of such magnitude that it requires more time to prepare."

Reinecke, the early favor-

ite in the polls to win the GOP nomination, has dropped considerably in Republican esteem since his indictment, according to pollster Mervin Field.

In August, Reinecke had a 4-to-1 margin over his major opponent, Controller Houston I. Flournoy. But a Field Poll published in The Chronicle last Tuesday showed Reinecke's lead had dropped to a 7-to- margin, with the lieutenant governor getting support from 28 per cent of the Republicans polled, to 24 per cent for Flournoy.

Reinecke told a press conference last weekend at the San Jose convention of the Republican State Central Committee that he would push for an early trial on the perjury charges.

"When I am cleared, as I know I will be," he said then, "the Republican voters of California will support me."

Reinecke said he "simply cannot conceive of conviction, because I am, as I said, absolutely not guilty."

He defended Donohue's earlier pre-trial motions as not being dilatory, "if they lead to dismissal of the charges quickly."

Donohue had moved the charges be dismissed on the grounds that the Senate committee before which Reinecke testified did not have enough members present to constitute a quorum.

Asked in San Jose if this was not begging the question of whether he had, in fact, committed perjury, Reinecke said, "well, of course, I would like to be cleared of the charges, but I'll leave the tactics up to my attorneys."

The indictments against Reinecke were returned by the Watergate grand jury on April 3. They stemmed from his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 19, 1972.

The committee is probing alleged connections between a \$400,000 guarantee made by International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. to the Republican National Committee and the settlement of an antitrust suit against ITT

by the Justice Department.

The grand jury held that Reinecke lied to the Senate committee when he said he had no knowledge of the antitrust suit when he notified then Attorney General John Mitchell of the \$400,000 offer to underwrite the 1972 Republican National Convention, then scheduled for San Diego.