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Reinecke Says He Thought He Was Promised Leniency

By Timothy S. Robinson
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California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke told a federal court here yesterday that the Watergate special prosecutor's office had implied he would not be indicted if he cooperated with their investigation of a corporate offer to provide up to \$400,000 if the Republican National Convention were held in San Diego.

The offer came from a subsidiary of International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.

Reinecke has been indicted on three counts of perjury for his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee about conversations he had with former Attorney General John N. Mitchell on the ITT matter. He is seeking to have those charges dismissed on grounds of the alleged offer.

But Reinecke testified yesterday that even if he had not felt he had been promised leniency in the investigation he "would have talked anyway. I have always maintained that a full explanation will clear me."

Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Joseph J. Connolly, who is head of the prosecutor's ITT task force, testified yesterday that he had never made any promise of leniency to Reinecke.

"I don't remember any suggestion that he would not be indicted," Connolly told Reinecke defense attorney James C. Cox.

As a matter of fact, Connolly testified, the only approach ever used by Reinecke's attorney was one of full cooperation without exacting any specific promises of immunity.

Reinecke's attorneys "might have believed" he could have been offered a deal, Connolly said, but the

special-prosecutor's office at all times pointed out the difficulties that Reinecke might face.

Frank J. Pagliaro Jr., who was Reinecke's defense attorney during the meetings with the Watergate special prosecutor's office, said also that he thought the prospect of a deal was only implied.

His main concern, Pagliaro said, was that the prosecutor decide quickly whether or not his client would be indicted so his client could make a decision whether to run for governor of California.

Reinecke was indicted around the first of April, nearly two months after he filed to run for governor of California.

Hearings continue today before U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker on Reinecke's pretrial motions, but the lieutenant governor was excused to resume his campaign.