

Lt. Gov. Reinecke Denies Deliberate Lie on ITT

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California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke, on trial here for perjury, strongly denied yesterday to a federal court jury that he ever told a deliberate lie to a Senate committee about the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. case.

At the start of yesterday's court session, U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker dismissed one perjury count against Reinecke on the ground that the question he was answering was too vague and "nebulous" to support a perjury conviction.

In the only count remaining Reinecke is accused of lying when he testified that the only time he and then-Attorney General John N. Mitchell discussed ITT's offer to help finance the 1972 Republican National Convention was two months after the Justice Department had settled its anti-trust cases against the company.

Yesterday Reinecke told jurors that the charge deals with questions put to him by Sen. Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii) near the end of his day-long appearance before the Senate Judiciary Committee, after he had been awake for more than 30 hours.

Reinecke said he thought Fong's questions dealt only with meetings he may have had with Mitchell about the ITT offer, not with telephone conversation about it.

He said that several months later when a reporter did ask him about phone conversations he had with Mitchell, he told all he knew about them.

"Did you lie to Sen. Fong?" Reinecke's lawyer James E. Cox, asked him in court yesterday.

"Absolutely not," Reinecke declared.

Reinecke testified before the Senate Committee on April 19, 1972, as it was winding up its hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be Attorney General.

The committee was trying to determine whether the offer of up to \$400,000 to help finance the convention by Sheraton Hotels, an ITT subsidiary, may have influenced how the anti-trust cases were settled. The offer was made in May, 1971; the settlement was announced July 31, 1971.

Yesterday Reinecke told the jurors that the question he was asked repeatedly by many senators was: "When did I meet with Attorney General Mitchell (about the ITT offer)?" "It was meetings, meetings, meetings all day long," Reinecke recalled yesterday. "There were 307 references to meetings in the testimony." And he said the meet-

ing took place in September, 1971.

Reinecke added that none of the senators asked him about phone calls he had with Mitchell.

Yesterday, under questioning by Cox, Reinecke said he did have three telephone conversations with Mitchell about the ITT offer during May and June, 1971, before the anti-trust settlement.

The testimony was identical to what he told the Watergate special prosecutor's office in an interview in July, 1973, and to the testimony he gave before a grand jury last February.

Last week in the trial, prosecutors introduced Reinecke's earlier statements as government evidence against him. Cox said Reinecke had cooperated fully with the prosecutor's office.

The perjury count which Judge Parker dismissed yesterday dealt with a question by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) about what "impression" Reinecke had when Mitchell first became aware of the ITT offer.