

Willie Brown Testifies For Reinecke at Trial

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Washington

The defense yesterday finished presenting its case for the acquittal of Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke of perjury after Assemblyman Willie L. Brown (Dem - S.F.) had appeared as a character witness.

Brown, a liberal Democrat and the first of four character witnesses, told the predominantly black jury that among politicians, Reinecke, a conservative Republican, has an "outstanding" reputation for telling the truth.

Judge Barrington Parker is expected to instruct the jurors today that a person's reputation may be considered in evaluating his credibility. The jury hears final arguments and begins its deliberations today.

Brown testified that he has had at least 50 private talks with Reinecke in Sacramento since 1969. Brown also said he was chairman of the legislative committee that passed on the lieutenant governor's budget requests.

"You can rely on Ed Reinecke if he tells you something," Brown testified. "In the political world, that is a quality you come to desire in a fellow politician." There was no cross-examination.

As Brown left the witness box, he walked to the defense table and shook hands warmly with Reinecke, and later with Reinecke's wife,

Jean, who was seated in the front row.

Judge Parker, who was busy reading during the handshakes, looked up as Brown was departing. The judge sternly admonished the jury to disregard the handshakes, saying, "If I had seen him going toward the defendant, I would have instructed him to go straight out of the courtroom."

Reinecke's other character witnesses were Richard Solorzano, executive director of the San Hidalgo Institute, a vocational training school with branches in San Bernardino and Oakland; Daisy Gibson, head of a Los Angeles County foster parents' association, and the Rev. Robert Romeis, Reinecke's Lutheran pastor in Sacramento.

Under rules of evidence, all were limited to statements Reinecke had a reputation for truthfulness and integrity. Earlier in the trial, the jury had heard an affidavit from Washington Redskins' football coach George Allen similarly attesting to Reinecke's character.

Yesterday the defense also summoned Frank O. Nelson Jr., a Los Angeles court reporter, to offer expert testimony on the accuracy of the transcript which resulted in Reinecke's one-count perjury indictment.

Nelson said he had re-examined the original stenotype notes and found 168 deviations between the notes and the resulting transcript.

Nearly all involved the addition of punctuation marks by the typist who transcribed the stenotype notes.

Nelson pointed out three deviations involving word changes, but none appeared to alter the meaning of the questions or answers.

Reinecke is charged with having lied to the Senate Judiciary Committee in April, 1972, about when he first told Attorney General John Mitchell that International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. had pledged \$400,000 to underwrite the Republican National Convention in San Diego.

The maximum penalty upon conviction for perjury is five years in the penitentiary and a \$2000 fine.