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Judge Bars A New Trial For Reinecke

Associated Press

A federal judge yesterday turned down requests for a new trial or dismissal of the perjury conviction against California Lt. Gov. Ed Reinecke.

U.S. District Court Judge Barrington D. Parker said here he could find no merit in arguments by Reinecke's lawyers that the conviction on a single perjury count was improperly obtained. Reinecke was convicted June 27 by a jury in Parker's courtroom.

The California Republican, defeated in a bid for his party's gubernatorial nomination earlier this year, was convicted of lying before a Senate committee, which was investigating the ITT affair. Reinecke is scheduled to be sentenced Wednesday.

In post-trial motions, Reinecke's lawyers said he could have easily misinterpreted the questions of Sen. Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii) during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 19, 1972. However, the judge pointed out that not until his two-week trial was over did Reinecke's lawyers raise the possibility that he misunderstood or misinterpreted Fong's questions.

At issue in Fong's questioning of Reinecke was how much former Attorney General John N. Mitchell knew about a political pledge of money made by the International Telegraph and Telephone Corp. to underwrite the costs of the Republican National Convention, then scheduled for San Diego.

Reinecke faces a maximum five-year sentence on the conviction, which can now be taken to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.