
Reaction to The Sentence

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Reaction among the State's political leaders to yesterday's sentencing of former Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke was primarily sympathetic.

Governor Ronald Reagan, through his press secretary, Clyde Walthall, said he is "extremely sorry for Ed Reinecke and his fine family."

In San Francisco, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Edmund G. Brown, Jr. expressed hope Reagan would "pick the best man or woman available in California, the best Democrat or Republican he can find to replace Reinecke."

Whoever the Governor picks to serve out the remainder of Reinecke's term, Brown said he believes the name should be submitted to the State Senate for confirmation.

"This is no time to play politics," Brown said.

(State law does not require such confirmation.)

Houston I. Flournoy, the Republican candidate for the governorship, was more constrained.

"Under the circumstan-

ces," he said, "it was probably a fair and appropriate sentence. I don't regard Reinecke as a major participant in Watergate. He was a peripheral figure."

Senate leader James R. Mills, a San Diego Democrat, said he was "pleased" Reinecke's sentence was suspended.

"If Reinecke has a fault, it's that he's too nice a guy," he said.

Senator Mervyn Dymally, the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, said the "judge tempered justice with mercy." But he warned that if Reagan selects Senator John L. Harmer of Glendale, the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, to succeed Reinecke, it would amount to "an obvious attempt to fix this election."

Such an appointment, he said, would be "a blatant, partisan attempt to influence the electoral process."

In Reinecke's Capitol office in Sacramento, his press secretary, Earl Parker, said several women office workers were "emotional" over the day's event, but said there were "no tears."
