

Reagan Clarifies

'Lynch' Quote

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday his remark that former President Nixon's critical illness might "satisfy the lynch mob" was "bitter" and not intended to be overheard.

"It was bitter of me to say it, and I suppose I was referring to those who have little compassion . . . people motivated by a drive to totally destroy the man," the governor told a news conference taping with students from San Francisco's St. Paul High School in the Mission district.

On Tuesday evening wire service reporters quoted Reagan as saying "Maybe that will satisfy the lynch

mob" when referring to Nixon's illness.

Reagan amplified the comment yesterday by saying he had told a reporter on fund-raising event in Newport Beach that he was "going to pray for him" (Nixon).

The "lynch mob" remark came inside the party, he said, and was addressed "to someone there at the gathering, and I didn't know anyone was eavesdropping."

Asked by newsmen who comprised the "lynch mob," Reagan said: "Just those who have been yelling for blood. Those who hate and so forth and were always looking on the worst side."

Our Correspondent