

Reagan Solicits Aid for Reinecke

San Diego

California Republicans are being asked by former Governor Ronald Reagan to send money to help former Lieutenant Governor Ed Reinecke pay \$117,000 in attorney fees, a newspaper said yesterday.

Reinecke was convicted of perjury last year. He resigned on Oct. 2, 1974, and is appealing the conviction.

"You will recall that last year our friend, Ed Reinecke, met with a difficult and tragic situation," wrote Reagan.

"You know the story, I'm sure, like most of us, you agree Ed was — and is — a victim of circumstances and Watergate."

Originally, he said, the legal debt was \$192,000 but \$75,000 was contributed mostly through a trust set up by Walter Knott of Knott's Berry Farm.

Reached at his ranch near Placerville, Reinecke said he welcomed Reagan's help, adding that so far her personally has paid "between \$40,000 and \$50,000" toward clearing the debt.

He said he has never reviewed the names of donors and did not know if Reagan and Knott were among them, and if so how much they had contributed.

He said that if his court appeal is successful, there is only a 50-50 chance "at best" of his returning to politics.

A spokesman for Reagan, who is considering a bid for the Republican presidential nomination, said the letter was sent to those who contributed to Reineck's political campaigns in the past and to other major GOP donors. He declined to say how many were mailed out.

A grand jury indicted Reinecke for giving perjured testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee about when he told then-Attorney General John Mitchell about an offer of International Telephone and Telegraph Co. to underwrite the Republican National Convention in 1972 for San Diego.

Our Correspondent