

Chancellor's reply to Santa Cruz: No

By BUD O'BRIEN

UC-Santa Cruz Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer has finally replied to a Dec. 19 letter from the mayor of Santa Cruz requesting the chancellor to give the city veto power over a proposal to build a research and development center on the campus.

The chancellor's answer, although couched in conciliatory language, was: No.

That surprised no one because Sinsheimer had told a newspaper reporter shortly after Mayor John Laird sent him the letter that the university was not going to surrender its prerogatives on land use to the city. That caused a flap in itself, with Sinsheimer being accused of violating protocol in telling a reporter of his intention before formally replying to the mayor, and Sinsheimer accusing the

reporter of violating a confidence.

In any case, the upshot is that the bitter feud between the city and the university over what procedures should be followed in developing acreage on the campus is exactly where it was before the mayor wrote his letter. Sinsheimer is still saying that while the university is willing to submit plans for the R&D center to the city's planning review process, he will not agree to allow the city to have the final say-so on whether the project can be developed.

Mayor Laird said today that the city is by no means giving up the fight, and is prepared to take its case to the president and the Board of Regents of the university, as well as to lobby the area's two state legislators to put pressure on the university.

The major weapon in the

city's arsenal was provided by the voters last November when they approved a referendum calling on the university to yield to the city's land use regulations. The state constitution exempts the university from such regulations.

The university wants to build the research and development center on acreage just north of Crown College, acreage not now within the city limits but which would be annexed to the city. Sinsheimer believes such use of university land would aid the institution in two ways: (1) It would provide a source of badly needed revenue, and (2) it would broaden the academic base of the university by providing an interaction between private research facilities and the university faculty and students.

It also would ultimately provide up to 2,000 new jobs and

increase the city-county tax base considerably.

But city officials — and county officials as well — contend that the impact of such a project on local resources, such as water, sewage, housing, traffic, etc., would be so drastic that it should have to be submitted to local planning regulations.

Laird said today that he and other officials plan to get together soon with State Sen. Henry Mello and Assemblyman Sam Farr in an effort to persuade them to try to get the Legislature to withhold funds from any such project unless it was submitted to the local planning process. The mayor also said that when UC President John Gardner comes to town Feb. 23 for his first visit to the Santa Cruz campus, efforts will be made to convince him of the justice of the city's position.