Debts of $170,000

AEC Aide Put on Probation

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William T. Riley, fired last spring as security director of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission after having borrowed more than $248,000 from fellow employees and $19,000 elsewhere, was ordered by a federal judge yesterday to repay the $170,000 he still owes.

U.S. District Judge James R. Miller Jr. also imposed three years' probation on Riley, 52, of Silver Spring, and ordered him not to gamble.

Riley pleaded guilty to having filed a false statement of personal indebtedness with the AEC. At a Baltimore court hearing, Judge Miller said he would not sentence Riley to prison because the former AEC official had not endangered national security or coerced his creditors to make loans.

Miller said that the former $36,000-a-year AEC security chief "conducted a Dr. Jekyll last year found that Riley's and Mr. Hyde existence for almost eight years" in concealing the extent of his indebtedness from his fellow AEC employees.

An AEC-FBI investigation las5t year found that Riley's financial troubles started in the early 1960s when a family business in which he had invested heavily began to fail. Riley also began losing up to $2,000 a day at race tracks in an unsuccessful effort to win money to pay demanding creditors.

Stephen Sachs, Riley's attorney, said in pleading for clemency that Riley has not declared bankruptcy and has pledged to pay his creditors, which he has been doing recently at $500 a month.

Riley's position with the AEC gave him access to a great deal of top-secret information and made him one of those primarily responsible for safeguarding the nation's atomic secrets.

All those AEC employees, including some top officials, who lent Riley money have told investigators they had not realized Riley also owed money to many of their fellow employees.