

Trial Sees Bribe Stash Of \$63,000

By Iris Kelso

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NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 24—The federal government today was given \$63,000 in cash evidence that was once buried in a pickle jar in a policeman's back yard.

A key witness in District Attorney Jim Garrison's trial for bribery produced the money in court today.

Frederick Soule, a former police captain assigned to Garrison's office, said he collected the money from pinball operators over an eight-year period.

He was afraid to spend it, he said, so most of the time he kept it in a five-gallon jar buried in his back yard.

Soule brought the money into court in a briefcase today. In the midst of his testimony he was asked to take the money out of the case. There were seven packages wrapped in aluminum foil. Most of the money was in \$100 bills. Soule counted the money out for the jury.

Soule, 53, was a veteran police officer before he was arrested in the Garrison case June 30, 1971. Soule said he collected money from pinball operators while he was commander of the police vice squad and later—while he was assigned to Garrison's office. This covered the period from 1963 to mid-1971.

In mid-February, 1971, Soule testified, he gave \$1,000 in bribe money to Garrison's chief investigator, Pershing Gervais. He handed over the money, he said, in the men's room of Garrison's office.

Soule said Gervais told him the money was to go to "the top man" in the office. Judge Herbert Christenberry told the jury to disregard that statement because it was hearsay.

Garrison is charged with taking \$4,000 in \$1,000 payments from Gervais.

Soule said today that after that initial payment Gervais took over the collecting from the pinball men.

In return for his bribe money, Soule said, he warned

pinball operators about police raids and described vice squad undercover men to them.

After the court session today, the \$63,000 was placed in a safety deposit box in a bank near the federal court building. Soule accompanied federal marshals to the bank to deposit the money. It will be held as evidence in the case.

Until Friday, Soule had refused to tell federal agents where the money was. Originally a defendant in the case, he pleaded guilty recently and became a prosecution witness.

This morning Soule told U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse that his wife had the money and would not tell him where it was.

Soule said his wife thought he was innocent of the bribery charges until recently when she found the money in a secret drawer in a chest in her dining room.

At first she told Soule she burned the money, but after talking with Gallinghouse today, she agreed to give it up.

After today's hearing Soule was asked if his wife was still angry with him. He said "We've been together 35 years and we understand each other."