

Former dairy leaders sentenced

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Two former executives of the nation's largest dairy cooperative were sentenced to jail Friday, marking the first time in the Watergate scandals that prison terms have been imposed for illegal campaign contributions.

Harold S. Nelson and David L. Parr, formerly top leaders of Associated Milk Producers Inc., were sentenced to three years in prison and fined \$10,000 each. U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. then immediately suspended all but four months of the prison terms.

Hart said he imposed the jail sentences to deter others from making illegal corporate contributions.

Hart also noted that a number of

persons have been fined for making illegal donations and asked Watergate prosecutors if candidates who receive such gifts are also guilty of breaking the law. "Is there no violation by the donee?" Hart asked?

"Some of these events are under active investigation," replied Asst. Special Prosecutor John Sale. He did not elaborate.

Judge Hart scheduled Nelson and Parr to begin serving their terms Nov. 8 at the federal prison compound in Montgomery, Ala.

Nelson and Parr had pleaded guilty to making donations to the campaigns of Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, D-Minn., and Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., among others.

At the time they pleaded guilty, prosecutors said in court papers that the two might face additional criminal charges in connection with their alleged promise to donate \$2 million to the reelection campaign of former President Richard M. Nixon, in return for an increase in milk price supports.

In addition to illegal campaign

donations, Nelson has admitted authorizing a \$10,000 bribe to former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, who has denied receiving the money.

Connally has been indicted for bribery, perjury and conspiracy and has pleaded innocent.

Nelson and Parr were ousted from their posts with the co-op in an internal power struggle in early 1972, before the illegal gifts were disclosed. Nelson had been general manager of the co-operative while Parr was his chief assistant.

Parr, of Little Rock, Ark., pleaded guilty on July 23 to a single conspiracy count and admitted making illegal contributions to Humphrey, Mills, former Rep. Page Belcher, R-Okla., Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., and others.

Nelson, of San Antonio, Tex., pleaded guilty July 31 to a similar conspiracy count and admitted additional illegal contributions to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, D-Maine, and former Vermont Gov. Phillip Hoff.

Both Nelson and Parr could have been sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison.