

Immunity Is Voted in Milk Case

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By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writers

The Senate Watergate committee voted yesterday to obtain immunity for Texas lawyer Jake Jacobsen in an effort to get fresh testimony about an alleged payoff for former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally.

The committee approved the move by a 5-to-0 vote in executive session as part of its investigation of President Nixon's controversial 1971 increase in milk support prices.

Connally strongly urged Mr. Nixon to approve the increase after an intense round of lobbying by the nation's biggest dairy farm cooperatives, including the Associated Milk Producers, Inc. one of Jacobsen's clients.

According to sources who were at yesterday's meeting, David Dorsen, the Senate committee's assistant chief counsel, said there was reason to think Jacobsen would testify he paid Connally as much as \$10,000 in AMPI money for his help.

Both Jacobsen and Connally have previously given testimony denying any such payoffs. In sworn testimony for the Watergate committee last December, Jacobsen acknowledged getting \$10,000 from AMPI for Connally's use, but he said Connally never took it.

However, a federal grand jury which took similar testimony indicted Jacobsen in February for swearing that he put the money in a safe deposit box three years ago and never touched it again until November, 1973, when FBI agents checked it.

According to committee

sources, Dorsen reported yesterday that some of the bills which Jacobsen said had been sitting in the safe deposit box since May of 1971 had not been put into circulation until the middle of 1973.

The perjury charge against Jacobsen was recently dismissed on technical grounds. But before it was thrown out, according to informed sources, Jacobsen offered to change his account for Watergate prosecutors and testify that Connally the money only to return it later after AMPI had come under heavy investigation.

Connally has denounced the reported allegations as "preposterous." He said that Jacobsen offered him the money twice, first in 1971 for distribution to political candidates of his choosing and again in 1972 for the Democrats-for-Nixon drive that Connally headed. The former Treasury Secretary said he refused to take it on both occasions.

The Senate committee must get court approval for the grant of immunity, a step that can be held up by Watergate prosecutors for 30 days. The prosecutors are believed to be considering a new perjury indictment against Jacobsen and are expected to hold up the immunity grant for the full 30 days.

The Watergate committee is scheduled to complete its work by June 30. Any testimony Jacobsen gives it under a promise of immunity could not be used against him in court although this would not preclude a new indictment on the basis of other evidence.

Sources said the committee decided to seek court authorization now so it could hear Jacobsen before going out of business. But it was understood that the senators will make another assessment of the situation before actually calling on him to testify.