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Jacobsen Loses Immunity in Milk Case

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WASHINGTON, June 19—

The Senate Watergate committee agreed today to a surprise request from the special Watergate prosecutor's office to withdraw its offer of immunity to Jake Jacobsen, a central figure in the criminal investigation of contributions from dairy interests to President Nixon's re-election campaign.

According to sources who were at a closed session of the committee, Samuel Dash, the chief counsel, told the panel's seven members that Henry Ruth, the deputy special prosecutor, had "asked that we withdraw our offer of immunity because that is a very sensitive case at this time for the prosecution."

The Watergate committee had earlier agreed to seek a grant of partial immunity for Mr. Jacobsen that would have prevented the use of his committee testimony as a basis for any criminal indictment or prosecution brought against him.

Mr. Dash reportedly did not elaborate on the reason for Mr. Ruth's request, and a spokesman for Leon Jaworski, the special prosecutor, would not comment when asked whether the dairy investiga-

tion had entered a more sensitive phase.

Mr. Jacobsen was indicted earlier this year on a charge that he perjured himself in grand jury testimony about his handling of a \$10,000 payment from the American Milk Producers, Inc., a lobbying group that he represented as an attorney. The indictment was subsequently dismissed in Federal District Court here.

The Former Treasury Secretary, John B. Connally, like Mr. Jacobsen a Texan, has said that Mr. Jacobsen told him of \$10,000 that had been set aside for his "political use," but that he never touched the money.

Well-placed sources said today that although the Jacobsen indictment had been dismissed on a "technicality," they did not believe he would be indicted again.

That disclosure, plus the prosecutor's request to the Watergate committee, raised questions about whether attorneys for Mr. Jacobsen might be nearing an immunity agreement with Mr. Jaworski's office in return for his testimony regarding Mr. Connally and others.

The prosecutor's office is reportedly looking into a possible connection between dairy interest contributions of several hundred thousand dollars to President Nixon's 1972 re-election

campaign and the Nixon administration's increasing milk support prices.

Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the Watergate committee, told newsmen following today's meeting only that the panel had ceased, at the request of the special prosecutor, its investigation of Mr. Jacobsen and Mr. Connally.

The North Carolina Democrat did not mention the request for withdrawal of the immunity offer to Mr. Jacobsen, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

The only area in which the committee's staff was continuing its investigation, Mr. Ervin said, concerned "some records relating to events in Key Biscayne." He described those as "odds and ends" in the inquiry into the role of Charles G. Rebozo, President Nixon's friend, as a recipient of Nixon campaign contributions.

The Watergate committee, which 16 months ago began its investigation into abuses in the 1972 Presidential campaign, must be law submit a report of its findings to the full Senate by June 28. The Senate resolution authorizing the Select Senate Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities expires on June 30.