

# Ex-Dairy Aide Files Guilty Plea on Gifts

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WASHINGTON, July 23—The special Watergate prosecutor's office accepted from a former dairy official today a plea of guilty to one charge of conspiring to make illegal contributions to the campaigns of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Democrat of Arkansas, and others.

The plea from David L. Parr, former special counsel to the nation's largest milk cooperative, was accepted on the understanding that he would testify, if called. But a letter from Henry S. Ruth, deputy special prosecutor, specifically barred immunity from any possible violations of bribery statutes in connection with President Nixon's milk-price decision of 1971.

Mr. Parr entered his plea to-

Continued on Page 21, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

day before Federal District Judge George Hart. He faces a possible maximum sentence of up to five years in jail and \$10,000 in fines.

Besides the cases to which Mr. Parr pleaded, the prosecutor's office is investigating allegations that a \$2-million pledge to President Nixon's re-election campaign influenced a decision to raise milk-price supports, announced March 25, 1971.

Mr. Parr's plea was the first to come out of the investigation of contributions by the cooperative, Associated Milk Producers, Inc., known as AMPI, and two smaller dairy groups to Presidential and Congressional campaigns.

As special counsel, Mr. Parr was second in command to the big co-op's general manager, Harold S. Nelson, who was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in an information filed with the court in connection with the plea.

As other unindicted co-conspirators the information also named Bob A. Lilly, assistant to the general manager of AMPI; Robert Isham, the co-op's former controller, and Stewart Russell, former attorney for AMPI.

Mr. Parr's name and that of Mr. Nelson have repeatedly turned up in incidents associated with the milk-price decision of 1971.

Both were among milk-industry visitors received by President Nixon on the morning of March 23, 1971, shortly before he decided to reverse a ruling by the then Secretary of Agriculture, Clifford M. Hardin, that no price-support increase could be justified on economic grounds.

## Pledge Was Sought

Mr. Parr and Mr. Nilson also flew to Louisville that night in an AMPI jet to try to obtain a pledge of \$200,000 to \$300,000 to the President's re-election campaign from the head of another milk cooperative.

Mr. Nelson was also present at a meeting at the Madison Hotel here the next night at which, according to testimony of Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's former personal attorney, the dairy leader reaffirmed the cooperatives' \$2-million pledge.

The information filed by Mr. Ruth today charged Mr. Parr with the following "overt acts" of conspiracy to make illegal corporate contributions:

¶ Payment of \$63,500 in corporate funds to the Democratic National Committee in 1968 for a dinner saluting Senator Humphrey, who was then Vice President and a candidate for President.

¶ Arrangement for Mr. Lilly to work from April to October, 1968, at AMPI's expense, for Mr. Humphrey's primary campaign.

¶ Contributions of corporate funds in 1970 to Mr. Humphrey's senatorial campaign.

¶ Corporate contributions for Representative Page Belcher, Republican of Oklahoma, in 1970.

¶ Arrangement for Mr. Lilly to work in 1970 for the Congressional candidacy of Patrick J. Hillings, Republican of California.

¶ The purchase in 1971 of computer services for Mr. Humphrey's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination with \$25,000 incorporate funds.

¶ Payment of \$5,000 as well as salaries and expenses of two employes in the short lived campaign of Mr. Mills for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

¶ Payment of other corporate funds for campaigns of Senator James Abourezk, Democrat of South Dakota, and Richard Clark, Democrat of Iowa.

## Milk Decision Excluded

In the letter today, addressed to Mr. Parr's attorney, Fred A. Gipson, Mr. Ruth said that one count of conspiracy would dispose of potential charges against the former dairy official based on "matters presently known to this office" in connection with corporate contributions leading up to the 1972 elections but excluding the milk-price decision.

Acceptance of the plea, Mr. Ruth said, was based on the understanding that "full and truthful disclosure will be made of all relevant information and documents" and that "Mr. Parr may be required to testify as a witness called by the United States in matters where he may have relevant information.

Mr. Gipson declined to comment on the understanding, and a spokesman for the special prosecutor's office would say only:

"The investigation is continuing."