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Milk Co-op SF Chronicle Leaders Resign

San Antonio, Tex.

The two top leaders of Associated Milk Producers Inc., the dairy cooperative caught up in a campaign contributions scandal, have resigned and been replaced, AMPI headquarters confirmed yesterday.

The action was taken Thursday at a board of directors meeting in Chicago.

The resignations involved AMPI President John E. Butterbrodt of Burnett, Wis., and General Manager George L. Mehren of San Antonio, both under investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor's office in connection with illegal campaign donations made by AMPI.

Butterbrodt will continue as a board member and Mehren will remain on the staff of the corporate office.

Irvin Elkin, an Amory, Wis., dairy farmer, will take over as president and the

new general manager will be S.F. Howe of Sulphur, Okla., who had been an associate general manager.

An AMPI announcement here said Butterbrodt and Mehren "said they have carried a difficult and taxing burden. They believe the strength of AMPI is such that their tasks should be transferred to other hands."

AMPI, which has pleaded guilty to making donations to both Democratic and Republican candidates, was fined the maximum \$35,000.

Former AMPI General Manager Harold Nelson of San Antonio, and his chief lieutenant, David Parr of Little Rock, Ark., both are serving four-month jail terms after pleading guilty to charges that they authorized hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of illegal contributions.

Although AMPI lawyers at the time blamed Nelson and Parr for the donations, Butterbrodt was chairman of the organization and Mehren was a high level consultant to the group.

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