

Connally Lawyer Asks For Directed Acquittal

By Timothy S. Robinson
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Defense attorney Edward Bennett Williams yesterday asked a federal judge to acquit former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally of bribery charges, claiming that to send the case to a jury would be "an invitation to the jury to engage in pure speculation" on his guilt or innocence.

The testimony of the main witness against Connally, Texas lawyer Jake Jacobsen, is "thrice-tainted" because he is an alleged accomplice, an admitted perjurer and a paid government informer.

Connally actually received at least \$10,000 in illegal payoffs for his backing of a 1971 milk price support increase. Prosecutors have corroborated various aspects of Jacobsen's movements and access to cash at the times the alleged payments were made to Connally and at the time an alleged cover-up of the payments was under way by the two men.

Williams claims that none of that evidence corroborates the actual allegation of cash payments to Connally.

"If . . . Anglo-American concepts of fairness have dic-

that carried possible prison terms totaling 40 years.

In another motion filed yesterday, Williams asked Hart to free Connally because the government had not proven he received a payoff for an official act."

In effect, the defense argued that even if Connally had taken the money—which Connally denies—he is being tried under the wrong bribery statutes.

Williams said that Connally took no "official" acts in recommending the milk price support increase in 1971, since only the Secretary of Agriculture can approve or reject such an increase.