

Third Payoff To Connally Is Mentioned

By Timothy S. Robinson
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Texas lawyer Jake Jacobsen testified yesterday that he may have given a third illegal \$5,000 payoff to former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, in late 1971, but he said he couldn't remember details.

Jacobsen, who was cross-examined by defense attorney Edward Bennett Williams, is the government's star witness.

Connally is accused of receiving two illegal cash payoffs of \$5,000 each from Jacobsen for his backing of milk price support increases in 1971.

Williams attempted to portray Jacobsen as a liar and thief, testifying to minimize his own punishment, and claimed at one point that Jacobsen offered to give testimony against former President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of his plea bargaining once Jacobsen's Texas banking empire began falling apart.

Jacobsen denied that accusation.

Defense attorney Williams peppered Jacobsen with questions about his previous testimony in at least six different forums in which he denied giving Connally any money. In those appearances, Jacobsen had said he offered money to Connally for political contributions, but that Connally rejected the offers.

See **CONNALLY, A3, Col. 1**

CONNALLY, From A1

Williams interspersed his questioning with the reading of lengthy segments of those grand jury and Capitol Hill appearances of Jacobsen, which Jacobsen now contends were filled with lies. Jacobsen, a silver-haired man with dark bushy eyebrows, would put on his eyeglasses to follow a copy of the appropriate transcript and then affirm that he had given that testimony.

Williams also brought out alleged inconsistencies in the various retellings of Jacobsen's version of the reported payoffs since he began cooperating with the government. The cross-examination will continue today, in U.S. District Court before Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.

By bringing out the allegation of a third \$5,000 payoff with which Connally was not charged, Williams apparently hoped to convince the jury that Jacobsen would testify at will about alleged illegal payoffs in an attempt to make a better deal for himself.

"I don't remember giving it to Secretary Connally, but I must have because I brought it to Washington for that purpose," Jacobsen said at one point. "The only thing I don't have a firm recollection about is giving it to Secretary Connally."

Jacobsen has testified that he specifically remembers two occasions on which he actually gave money to Connally.

Williams did not specify what sort of information Jacobsen was allegedly ready to give about former President Johnson, but merely asked the Texas lawyer if at one point he had offered to give such testimony.

"No, sir, I did not," Jacobsen answered.

In addition to the testimony about the third alleged payment of \$5,000, Williams brought out the following al-

leged inconsistencies in Jacobsen's various presentations:

- Jacobsen admitted telling the Watergate special prosecutor's office at one point that he took only \$5,000 in cash with him to Connally's office

on the date of the first alleged illegal payments. Jacobsen has testified during the trial that he took \$10,000 to Connally's office on that date, but decided at the last minute to give him only \$5,000.

- Jacobsen's attorney, Charles McNelis, told prosecutors during plea-bargaining discussions that his client would testify that he knew Connally flushed down a toilet the wrappers in which the payoffs were bound. Jacobsen said yesterday he never gave McNelis such information.

Jacobsen had trouble remembering exact dates of his various grand jury and Capitol Hill appearances, and Williams would show him copies of such testimony to refresh his memory.

Jacobsen has pleaded guilty to one count of giving an illegal gratuity to public official — Connally. That count carries a possible maximum prison sentence of two years; the previous cases in which Jacobsen faced charges here and in Texas carried possible prison terms of up to 40 years.

Judge Hart's fourth-floor courtroom in the federal courthouse here was packed. More than 100 spectators were lined up in a corridor waiting for seats as Williams began his cross-examination.

Jacobsen admitted that he had rehearsed his testimony on 17 different days with the special prosecutor's office, with prosecutors assuming the role of Williams in mock cross-examinations.



Associated Press

Connally, right, and attorney Williams arrive at district court for trial.