SFChronicle APR 9 1975

Connally Bribery Trial

The $10,000 Question

Washington

John Connally's lawyer stacked $10,000 in cash before prosecution witness Jake Jacobsen yesterday in an attempt to discredit his testimony that Connally accepted the money in bribes.

Under final cross-examination by defense lawyer Edward Bennett Williams, Jacobsen stuck by his statement that he paid Connally two installments of $5000 each in return for help in obtaining higher price supports for raw milk.

Jacobsen said Connally eventually returned the money and conspired with him to cover up the payoffs.

Jacobsen was followed on the witness stand by milk producer lobbyist Bob A. Lilly, who testified he raised the $10,000 that allegedly went to Connally.

Chief U.S. district Judge George L. Hart Jr. twice admonished the jury that Lily's testimony was only evidence that the money was delivered to Jacobsen, not that it went to Connally.

Connally's trial on two bribery counts was proceeding more repidly than expected, and it was thought the government might rest its case as early as tomorrow.

Williams, in his day and a half of questioning, repeatedly attacked Jacobsen's credibility, pointing out instances where the Texas lawyer had lied to Watergate investigators before agreeing to testify against Connally in the bribery trial.

Williams contended Jacobsen changed his story only when the prosecution agreed to drop charges against him in an unrelated Texas bank fraud case.

Whereas Jacobsen testified that Connally accepted the $10,000 funneled from Associated Milk Producers, Inc., Williams contended that Connally turned it down and that Jacobsen kept it for himself.

Williams dramatically tore open three manila envelopes and placed in front of the witness the $10,000 in cash that Jacobsen said Connally gave him to replace the payoffs when the two conspired to cover up the transaction.

The bills were taken from Jacobsen's safety deposit box by Watergate prosecutors.

United Press