

Connally Judge's Confusing Day

Washington

Using a rapid succession of witnesses, the prosecution sought yesterday to bolster Jake Jacobsen's story of an abortive attempt to cover up a \$10,000 payoff to former Treasury Secretary John Connally.

The technical testimony of 11 witnesses turned exclusively on the two batches of cash Jacobsen said he put in a safe deposit box to make it appear to investigators that the \$10,000 to Connally for his help in getting milk price supports raised in 1971. Connally is charged with two

counts of accepting an illegal gratuity.

Prosecutor Frank Tuerkheimer summoned three FBI men, an official of the government's Bureau of Engraving and Printing and seven Federal Reserve Bank officers in tracing the trail of money found in Jacobsen's box.

The lesson in the numbering and distribution of money became so involved for a while that even the judge was confused.

"Do you understand what's been done, because, bless me, I don't," said

Chief U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. at one point.

The FBI agents testified to inventorying the serial numbers of 346 bills totaling \$10,000 that Jacobsen said he put into the bank box Oct. 29, 1973, after getting the money from Connally.

The Federal Reserve Bank officers testified that the bills were all in circulation when Jacobsen said he put them into the box.

In essence, their testimony proved a negative — not that Jacobsen told the

truth, but that it couldn't be proven he lied about the bills.

Judge Hart shook his head in bewilderment a number of times while Tuerkheimer questioned John Craven, assistant head of plant security at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

At another point, he addressed Tuerkheimer and defense lawyer Edward Bennett Williams and said: "I guess you and Mr. Williams know what you are doing, because I sure don't. You all explain it later."

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