Connally Denies Seeking Or Accepting Dairy Bribe

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By JAMES M. NAUGHTON APR 1 5 1975

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had ever sought or accepted the crowded courtroom as \$10,000 in payoffs for helping character witnesses for the dedairy farmers to obtain increased Federal price supports

biting off each word with slow, of them doubt his integrity."

payments the following May pletes direct questioning. and September.

ernor of Texas, took the witness stand after Lady Bird Johnson, Continued on Page 20, Column 3

WASHINGTON, April 14-the Rev. Billy Graham, Repre-John B. Connally denied today sentative Barbara Jordan of from the witness stand that he Texas and others appeared in

"Now, some folks don't like him," former President Lyndon "It did not," the former Sec- B. Johnson's widow said of Mr. retary of the Treasury said, Connally, "but I don't think any

measured emphasis, when asked in United States District Court slight blush occasionally color-whether bribery had occurred ing his face, for nearly two He denied the earlier testi-hours this afternoon as he anmony of Jake Jacobsen, a one-time lawyer for the nation's Edward Bennett Williams, the largest dairy farmer coopera-tive, who swore that Mr. Con-examination by Government nally sought money in April, prosecutors will take place to-1971, and accepted two \$5,000 morrow after Mr. Williams com-

During most of the examina-Mr. Connally, a former Gov- tion today, which traced Mr.

'A Delicate Position'

Continued From Page I, Col. 3 Connally's rise to political prominence and his admitted intervention "on the merits" on behalf of the dairy farmers as Secretary of the freasury. Mr. Connally and Mr. Williams conducted a calm, unhurried colloquy. colloquy. But Mr. Williams began

replying in slow-paced phrases as they discussed the charges by Mr. Jacobsen, a one-time friend of Mr. Connally, who was the chief prosecution witness.

"Did you ever ask Mr. Ja-cobsentor any money or any thing of value?" Mr. Williams

"I did not," Mr. Connally anavered, looking at his lawyer across the length of the jury

Mr. Williams repeated the question, wondering rhetori-ally if the witness had ev-sked for money in a Treas-

ury Department meeting with Mr. Jacobsen in late April, Mr. Jacobsen in late 1971.

Conversation Denied

Conversation Denied

"No such conversation ever took place," Mr. Connally said.
"Not there—not in the Treasury—not anywhere."

Mr. Williams reminded Mr. Connally of Mr. Jacobsen's testimony that \$5,000 in manila envelopes was paid to the Treasury Secretary on May 14, 1971. "Did it happen," the lawyer asked. yer asked.

"It did not," Mr. Connally

"It did not," Mr. Connally said firmly and evenly.
On May 14 or any date? Mr. Williams went on.
"No, sir," Mr. Connally said. The defendant similarly declared "it did not" happen, as Mr. Jacobsen had alleged, that a second \$5.000 was paid to

a second \$5,000 was paid to him on Sept. 24, 1971.
"Did he give you any money at any time?" Mr. Williams

asked.
"No, sir, he did not," Mr.
Connally insisted.
Mr. Connally told the jury

of seven women and five menthat he had twice rejected offers from Mr. Jacobsen of \$10,000 that Mr. Connally could contribute to political candidates of his choice or to the re-election campaign of President Nixon in 1972.

He said that at a luncheon meeting on June 25, 1971 Mr.

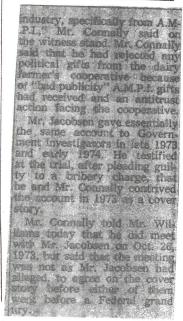
He said that at a luncheon meeting on June 25, 1971, Mr. Jacobsen said that he had \$10,000 available from Associated Milk Producers, Inc., the dairy farmers' cooperative, to contribute to anyone Mr. Connally designated. nally designated.

"I told him I didn't think I could do that at all in good conscience," Mr. Connally testified. "I told him I was a Democrat in a Republican Administration and somewhat in a delicate position."

tration and somewhat in a delicate position."

Mr. Connally said that the overture and the rejection were quickly dismissed, and that Mr. Jacobsen did not raise the subject again until early August, 1972, when Mr. Connally had left the Treasury and was organizing Democrats for Nixon to campaign for the President.

to campaign for the President.
"He brought up the subject of contributions from the dairy



According to the defendant's account Mr. Jacobson 4

him that another official him that another official of the cooperative was testifying privately about \$10,000 made available for Mr. Connally's political use. Mr. Connally quoted Mr. Jacobsen as having offered to testify that the other official, Bob A. Lilly, "never gave me \$10,000, and you and I never discussed it."

But, Mr, Connally went on, "I said, "We don't have any choice about it ... we've done nothing wrong. Let's just tell it like it is."

Earlier, the defense presented

tell it like it is'."

Earlier, the defense presented testimony from three witnesses that rebutted elements of Mr. Jacobsen's account of two efforts in 1973 to put \$10,000 of Mr. Connally's own money in a safety deposit box in a Texas bank in furtherance of an alleged cover-up.

Two secretaries who worked

countroom speciators, took the witness stand one by one after Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.

Mr. Jacobsen had testified that he and Mr. Connally entered the former Treasury Secretary's car outside the home to exchange a second \$10,000 in alleged cover-up money meant to replace the first packet in the bank box.

No. 1870. Cultural Price Supports. Mr. Williams said that under the Federal law governing milk price supports, even the Prescident had "no power what soever" to interfere with the Judge devertible of Agriculture.

But Judge Heat interpret the bank box.

Both secretaries, Beverie Ware a Cyhla McMahan, conceded on Government cross-examination that they were very busy that day. But each said that she would have remembered Mr Connally's passing taeir desks with a cigar box.

George F. Christian, a former press secretary to President Johnson and Mr Connally, testified that he stood on the porch of his nome in Austin, Tex, and watched Mr Connally testified that he stood on the porch of his nome in Austin, Tex, and watched Mr Connally testified that he stood on the porch of his nome in Austin, Tex, and watched Mr Connally testified that he stood on the porch of his nome in Austin, Tex, and watched Mr Connally testified that he stood on the porch of his nome in Austin, The defense contended had been separately on Nov. 25, 1973 Coutural price supports.

Mr Jacobsen had testified that Williams price supports.

The character witnesses included two former Cabinet officers from the Johnson Administration—Robert S. McNamara, who was Secretary of Defense, and Dean Rusk, who was Secretary of State. Other character witnesses were James Royer soon he out of office

retary of State. Other character witnesses were James Rowe, once the administrative assistant to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Robert S. Strauss, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

The character witnesses, some of whom were greeted by gasps of recognition from the recommendations? would soon be out of office.

Judge Hart also referred to the tape recording of a March 23, 1971, White House meeting at which Mr. Connally argued on behalf of increased milk price supports, and President Nixon ordered Clifford M. Harding the property of Agriculture, to make the increase.