

Both Sides Sum Up In Connally's Trial

Washington

With John Connally brushing away tears, the defense and prosecution made their final pleas in his bribery trial yesterday and left the jury to decide who has been lying — Connally or his accuser. Defense counsel Edward Bennett Williams got the final word in summation. He described the former Treasury secretary as a man of "honor and integrity" who has been falsely accused of bribe-taking by "a fraud and a swindler."

But in his summation, prosecutor Frank Tuerkheimer derided Connally as "this man who tells you about his speeches and his meeting with the president of France," but who also accepted a \$10,000 payoff and lied about it.

Arguing his side of the credibility debate, Tuerkheimer said the allegations of milk lobbyist Jake Jacobsen, the star prosecution witness, had been supported by "an enormous quantity of evidence."

The case goes to the U.S. District Court jury of seven women and five men this morning for a verdict on charges Connally accepted \$10,000 in payoffs from Jacobsen in 1971 as a reward for helping persuade President Richard Nixon to raise milk price supports.

The composure Connally has maintained throughout the trial seemed to falter as Williams strode back and forth before the jury.

Connally flushed and blinked repeatedly as Wil-



—UPI Photo

EDWARD WILLIAMS
The final word



AP Wirephoto

FRANK TUERKHEIMER
'Quantity of evidence'

iams spun out his charges that the prosecution's evidence had come through the

lips of a man they have characterized in an indictment as a fraud and a swindler.

"Can you say that a witness branded by the government in those terms, who proclaims himself to be a liar under oath, can you say that evidence meets the burden of satisfying you beyond a doubt of the guilt of a man who came into this courtroom with an impeccable reputation for honor and integrity after almost three scores years of his life?"

"I don't think you can."

Jacobsen has said he lied in the past when he testified on various occasions that Connally never accepted any payoff money from him. He pleaded guilty to one count of making an illegal payment to a public official in exchange for the dropping of savings and loan charges against him in Texas and his testimony against Connally.

"Their case is on the courthouse floor, in shambles, in a wreck," Williams said.

He alleged Jacobsen kept the \$10,000 himself instead of giving it to Connally, an old and close friend: "His (Jacobsen's) financial empire was gone, the sheriff was practically at his door in 1971, he was constantly in default on indebtedness.

"Here was this beleaguered man, bankrupt and indicted, driven by his constant lies, into bearing false witness against his old friend," Williams said.

Tuerkheimer said "an enormous quantity of evi-

dence" supports Jacobsen's contention he gave Connally \$10,000 in 1971 for his help in raising the federal price support for raw milk, and then together plotted a cover story in 1973 in the Watergate investigation.

Tuerkheimer charged that Connally lied to the grand jury on Nov. 14, 1973, by failing to tell of a meeting 19 days previously when he and Jacobsen allegedly discussed a scheme for returning the \$10,000.

Connally testified Tuesday he had misunderstood the question.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that is a lie. That is clearly a lie," Tuerkheimer shouted. "This man, who tells you about his speeches and his meeting with the president of France, his defense is that he can't understand plain English. He understands English better than anyone in this courtroom. He's a very, very smart man."

Tuerkheimer also used a White House tape of a talk between Connally and President Nixon on March 23, 1971, to attack Connally's defense that he turned down the \$10,000 for use as a political contribution because he didn't want to get involved in partisanship.

"The tape recording shows Mr. Connally was as partisan and political as he possibly could be," Tuerkheimer said. The tape, played earlier, showed Connally said he was arguing for a higher price support not on economic, but political grounds, "looking ahead to 1972."

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