

# The Confession of A Dairy Lobbyist



**Jack Anderson**

**F**ORMER Treasury Secretary John Connally tried to head off a Justice Department investigation of Jake Jacobsen, the dairy lobbyist who has now confessed to the Watergate prosecutors that he delivered a \$10,000 pay-off to Connally from the dairy industry.

We have established that Connally last year telephoned Richard Kleindienst, then the attorney general, and asked him to intervene in the Jacobsen case.

The Justice Department, nevertheless, went ahead with a double-barreled investigation of Jacobsen's role in the milk scandal and in an unrelated savings-and-loan case.

Jacobsen was called before a grand jury where he swore Connally had rejected the \$10,000. The dairy lobbyist testified that he had stashed the money in a safe deposit box and hadn't touched it until the FBI opened the box.

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**T**HE FBI FOUND evidence to the contrary and the Watergate prosecutors began preparing a case against Jacobsen for perjury. Connally, inevitably, became involved in the investigation.

This was about the time that Archibald Cox was fired as the special Watergate prosecutor. Suddenly, Connally began pulling strings to name Cox's successor. White House sources tell us that Connally urged Leon Jaworski's appointment upon the President.

The appointment of Jaworski, there-

fore, put Connally in the happy position of helping to choose the special prosecutor who would now investigate him. But if Connally expected a whitewash, he had misjudged Jaworski's character.

On February 6, Jacobsen was indicted in the savings-and-loan case. Two weeks later, he was indicted again for lying to the grand jury about the \$10,000.

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**T**HIS CONFRONTED Jacobsen, say his friends in Texas, with an agonizing human dilemma. He considered Connally probably his best friend and might even have been willing to go to prison for him. But Jacobsen's wife is in poor health and needs his constant attention.

He was forced to choose, we were told, between his wife and his best friend. After considerable soul wrenching, he offered to cooperate with the prosecutors in a bid for leniency.

He told them he had delivered the \$10,000 to Connally at the Treasury Department. After the milk scandal broke into the headlines, Connally returned the money and they agreed upon a cover story, Jacobsen said. Jacobsen promised to say he had not delivered the \$10,000 to Connally but had kept it in a safe deposit box.

Connally has flatly denied Jacobsen's story. He told us that Jacobsen told the truth the first time. We couldn't reach Connally for comment on the latest developments related in this column.