

**JOHNSON QUOTED
ON DAIRYMEN GIFT****He Reportedly Said Group
Reneged on \$250,000**

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AP) —Former President Johnson once declared that dairymen had promised him a \$250,000 campaign contribution but did not deliver, according to a statement attributed to the leader of the nation's biggest dairy cooperative.

The co-op leader, George L. Mehren of Associated Milk Producers, Inc., is also quoted as saying that Mr. Johnson had charged the group what was termed a "lush" price for the lease of an airplane, and that the former President had considered the lease payments to be a source of retirement income.

The Mehren statements are contained in notes that were subpoenaed and made public recently in connection with the Government's antitrust suit against the milk producers.

Inquiry by Bar Head

They are among the data from an investigation of the co-op's political activities that was conducted for the co-op's board of directors by the for-

mer American Bar Association president, Edward L. Wright.

Mr. Mehren is quoted as saying that he sought Mr. Johnson's advice in October, 1972, when a fund-raiser for President Nixon was seeking additional campaign gifts from the milk producers.

According to Mr. Mehren's account, the two men met at the LBJ Ranch, 50 miles from the milk producers' headquarters in San Antonio, Tex.

"During that meeting, he told me that the dairy people in his last campaign had agreed to give \$250,000, but had not done so," Mr. Mehren is quoted as saying.

Airplane Lease

Mr. Mehren's predecessor at the cooperative reportedly had arranged to pay Mr. Johnson \$94,000 a year to lease a 13-passenger turboprop airplane, which was used often by the cooperative but kept at the LBJ Ranch. Mr. Mehren is quoted as saying that the cooperative's board of directors had disapproved the lease arrangement, but that previous co-op officials had falsified records to hide this.

Lawyers for Mr. Johnson's family have said the price paid for the lease arrangement was a bargain.

However, the Mehren statement quoted Mr. Johnson as saying that he had welcomed the lease arrangement because it supplemented his retirement income. Mr. Johnson is quoted as saying the price was too "lush" for most organizations.