

Ex-Head of Milk Co-op Is Guilty In Illegal Donation to Campaign

By ANTHONY RIPLEY
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WASHINGTON, May 17 — The former president of a small Eastern milk producers group pleaded guilty today to consenting to an illegal \$50,000 contribution to the Finance Committee to Re-Elect the President.

Richard L. Allison, who was dismissed last April 16 as head of the Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers of Allentown, Pa., appeared before Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. in United States District Court. Judge Hart suspended a \$1,000 fine and placed Mr. Allison on a month's unsupervised probation.

When it was over, Mr. Allison and his wife stood in the court hallway wiping the tears from their eyes, in one of the few emotional scenes generated by court action in the Watergate affair.

"It's been a very horrible ordeal," Mr. Allison told reporters.

His lawyer, Richard F. Stevens, of Allentown, told the court that Mr. Allison, 42 years old, was unemployed and had five children.

"He throws himself on the mercy of this court," Mr. Stevens said.

Eight Years in College

Later, Mr. Stevens said that Mr. Allison's parents died when he was 13 and he worked his way through college over eight years. He is a bookkeeper and earned \$55,000-a-year as president of the Lehigh co-op, which represents some 950 milk producers in eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. Lehigh is not one of the major dairy groups that have been under investigation by the Watergate special prosecutor.

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United Press International
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According to a former Nixon campaign official, J. Curtis Herge, the dairy group sought former Vice President Agnew as a speaker at its annual meeting in April, 1972, and offered a \$100,000 honorarium.

Scheduling conflicts arose, however, and Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz spoke instead but for half the fee, Mr. Herge said in an interview last fall.

Mr. Stevens described it differently, saying that Lehigh's Washington lobbyist, Frank Carroll, had asked \$35,000 for an honorarium for a speaker. After Dr. Butz spoke, the lobbyist and a former Lehigh lawyer, Gerald Gleason, "came back and said it would cost more money, so he gave them another \$25,000," according to Mr. Stevens.

The checks, he said, were made out to the lobbyist or to cash but only \$50,000 finally went to the re-election committee.

Asked about the missing \$10,000, Mr. Stevens said, "there's a real question about it."