

## Dairy Co-Op Figure Enters Guilty Plea Over Nixon Gift

*By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter*

WASHINGTON—The former Washington representative of Lehigh Valley Cooperative Farmers, an Allentown, Pa., dairy co-op, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting an illegal corporate gift to President Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign.

Francis X. Carroll, who said he was discharged by Lehigh Valley in November 1972, was given a suspended sentence and placed on one month's unsupervised probation by federal district judge George L. Hart. The judge could have imposed a sentence of as much as one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine for the offense, a misdemeanor. However, on hearing that Mr. Carroll had been discharged by the company following the illegal contribution, Judge Hart said, "I suspect that's enough penalty."

The criminal information to which Mr. Carroll pleaded guilty says that he aided and abetted an illegal \$50,000 contribution from corporate funds by a former Lehigh Valley president, Richard L. Allison. Mr. Allison, who was similarly discharged by the corporation after the donation came to light, pleaded guilty earlier this month and was also given one month of unsupervised probation.

Still earlier, the company itself pleaded guilty and was fined \$5,000 in connection with the illegal contribution.

The Lehigh Valley case was handled by the Watergate special prosecutor's task force on campaign contributions, which is also investigating whether certain dairy cooperatives may have contributed to the Nixon campaign in exchange for an increase in the government's support price for milk.

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