

Connally Role Is Described

Associated Press

While he was Secretary of the Treasury in 1972, John B. Connally made repeated calls to two top Justice Department chiefs about a criminal investigation of his friend Jake Jacobsen, the Senate Watergate committee said.

Connally called Attorney General John N. Mitchell and later called Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst to inquire about the status of an investigation into Jacobsen's role in a Texas savings-and-loan fraud, the panel said.

The committee discussed Connally's calls about Jacobsen in a footnote to its final report.

It quoted the head of the Criminal Division, Henry E. Petersen, as saying he was upset by the number of calls about Jacobsen. Petersen was quoted as saying that someone at the White House also inquired about the matter.

Despite the high-level concern, Jacobsen was indicted

for misapplication of funds and conspiracy.

Sources say the government has agreed tentatively to drop charges if Jacobsen will plead guilty to a bribery charge in the milk-fund affair. Jacobsen is reported to be offering to testify against Connally.

Connally has sworn that Jacobsen offered him \$10,000 from the milk producers, and that he refused to take it. Jacobsen has offered to testify that Connally accepted the money, sources have said.

In a related matter, the Watergate committee yesterday released new testimony from former Nixon aide H. R. (Bob) Haldeman that appears to conflict directly with sworn statements by Connally.

Connally denied under oath that he discussed dairy-industry contributions with the dairymen, the President, "or with anyone else." Haldeman testified, however, that he recalled "listening to Mr. Connally on the subject of dairy contributions."

Haldeman testified:

"The point Mr. Connally made to me was, as I recall it, simply that their dairy people want to make a contribution and they had been trying to work with the campaign people or whoever is handling it, and they weren't getting the mechanics set up for them to do this, and that is kind of stupid, why doesn't someone set it up?"