

Ex-Milk Aide Pleads Guilty

By George Lardner Jr.
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A former top official of Associated Milk Producers, Inc., pleaded guilty yesterday to a criminal conspiracy involving repeated violations of federal election laws over the past six years.

Former AMPI special counsel David L. Parr, 46, said the milk producers regularly made illegal corporate contributions to various campaigns—including Hubert H. Humphrey's last three bids for public office.

Watergate prosecutors indicated that at least some of the

transactions cited yesterday are still under investigation. The former managers of the two 1972 presidential campaigns involved—those of Sen. Humphrey and Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.)—took the Fifth Amendment and declined to testify when questioned earlier this year by the Senate Watergate committee.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. accepted Parr's plea at an afternoon hearing and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Parr, who played a key role in building AMPI into the nation's biggest dairy farm cooperative, faces a maximum pen-

alty of five years in prison and \$10,000 fine.

He is still under investigation in connection with bribery allegations surrounding President Nixon's controversial 1971 increase in milk price supports.

In a letter outlining the deal arranged with Parr's lawyers, Watergate deputy Special Prosecutor Henry S. Ruth said other potential charges would be dropped, but it was "expressly understood that Mr. Parr is not receiving immunity from prosecution" in connection with the adminis-

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tration's 1971 turnaround on price supports.

Parr has insisted no bribery was involved despite the milk producers' promise of \$2 million for Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign.

Both Democrats and Republicans benefited from the illegal contributions that Parr admitted to yesterday. They included:

- \$63,500 for a 1968 salute to the Vice President dinner for Humphrey's presidential campaign.

- Some \$38,000 in corporate funds of AMPI's predecessor Milk Producers Inc.—which were spent in 1968 for Humphrey and others by MPI lob-

byist Bob A. Lilly. Lilly worked for Humphrey in more than half a dozen states while he was still on the co-op's corporate payroll.

- Corporate contributions of \$23,950 by AMPI for Humphrey's 1970 Senate comeback campaign in Minnesota.

- \$10,000 for the 1970 re-election campaign of Rep. Page Belcher (R-Okla.), then the ranking Republican on the House Agriculture Committee. (Belcher, on retiring from Congress in 1973, was put on the payroll of AMPI's political arm for \$60,000 a year plus \$15,000 in office furnishings.)

The contract was terminated last Dec. 31.)

- \$50,000 on computerized mailing lists for the 1972 campaign of Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) and another \$7,000 in similar services for the 1972 campaign of Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.).

Parr, who now works for Dairymen Inc., another giant co-op, said AMPI hid its corporate contributions with phony billings and bonuses and padded legal fees and public relations expenses.

Others who took part in the scheme, Parr said, were former AMPI general manager Harold S. Nelson, controller Robert O. Isham, Lilly and Stuart H. Russell, an AMPI lawyer from Oklahoma City.

In a statement released following Parr's plea, Sen. Clark disputed "the reference to my campaign." He said "the computer project was for the Iowa Democratic Party as a whole, and it was established, paid for and well under way early in 1971.

"It was not possible for the computer services to be intended for my campaign since I did not even think about running until the following year," Clark said.

Humphrey said, as he has in the past, that he did not realize the milk producers' contributions for his campaigns came from corporate funds. He said he assumed his campaign committees also "thought they were legal."

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Former AMPI counsel David L. Parr leaving courthouse