

Connally's Bribe Plea--Innocent

Washington

Former Treasury Secretary John B. Connally Jr. pleaded innocent yesterday to charges rising out of an allegation he accepted a \$10,000 bribe to persuade the Nixon administration to raise milk price supports in 1971.

"If there is any doubt, I plead not guilty to all counts," Connally said in a firm voice after Watergate prosecutor Frank Tuerkheimer asked whether the former Texas governor had yet entered a plea.

Chief U.S. District Judge George L. Hart Jr. granted a request by Edward Bennett Williams, Connally's lawyer, for 45 days in which to file motions. Hart also agreed not to set a trial date until after the motions are filed.

Connally walked briskly out of the courtroom hand-in-hand with his wife, Nellie. To all questions he replied, "No, I won't have anything to say."

Williams refused to say what motions he would file,

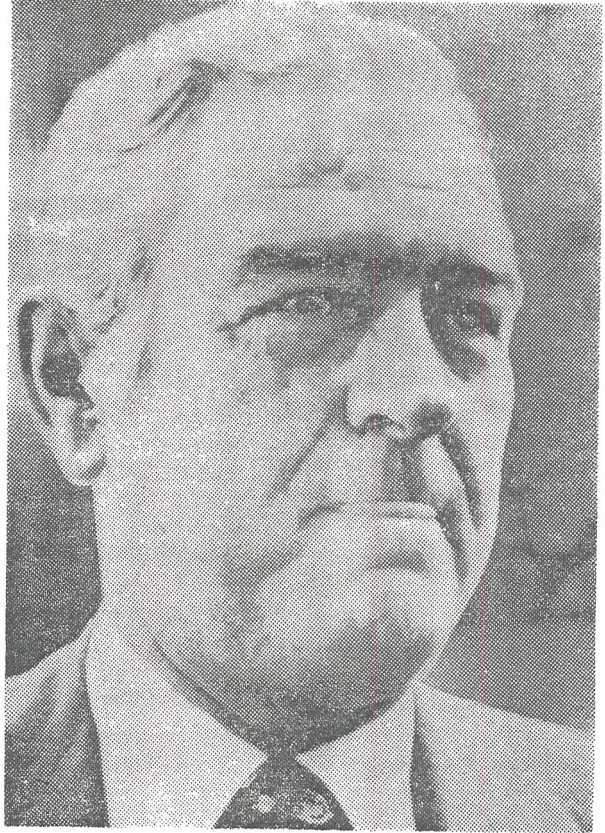
including whether he would ask for a change of venue for the trial.

Connally faces up to 19 years in prison and \$10,000 fine for the five counts of accepting a bribe, conspiracy and lying.

The Watergate special prosecution force has allegedly obtained at least three key witnesses — the source of the cash and two middlemen — for use in its case against Connally.

Jake Jacobsen, former lawyer for the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., pleaded guilty Wednesday to one count of paying a bribe to Connally. Jacobsen confessed he made two \$5000 payments in 1971 to Connally, his long-time Texas associate.

One week earlier, Harold S. Nelson, former Milk Producers general manager, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to make an illegal payment to a public official. Nelson confessed that he conspired to get \$10,000 for Jacobsen to give to Connally.



U.P. Wirephoto

JOHN CONNALLY
'I won't have anything to say'

Bob A. Lilly, who was Nelson's assistant, received immunity from prosecution for his cooperation. Nelson's in-

dictment charged that Nelson authorized Lilly to give Jacobsen the \$10,000.

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