

2 Given Prison Terms--- Illegal Campaign Gifts

Washington

Two former leaders of the nation's largest dairy farmer co-operative were sentenced yesterday to four months in prison for attempting to use massive illegal campaign payments to influence White House and congressional decisions on milk prices.

Harold S. Nelson and David L. Parr became the first to be sent to prison among 18 corporations and 21 officers charged by the Watergate special prosecutor with making illegal gifts of money to politicians.

Nelson, former general manager of Associated Milk Producers Inc., and Parr, his former chief assistant, appeared before Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr. in United States District Court.

Judge Hart gave each man a three-year sentence and a \$10,000 fine, then suspended all but four months of each sentence, to be spent in a federal prison camp in Montgomery, Ala. He also ordered two years' probation for both men, who agreed to cooperate with the special prosecutor's office.

Each had faced a possible five-year sentence.

The judge told the two men he was not punishing them or attempting to reform them by sending them to prison. Instead, he said,

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his aim was to deter similar actions by others.

"You pleaded guilty to a crime hundreds of other people have been guilty of in years past and nothing was ever done about it," Hart told them.

Nelson told the court he "deeply regretted" his participation in "the events" that led to the sentencing. He pleaded guilty July 31 to a criminal information charging him with conspiracy to bribe former Treasury



AP Wirephoto

DAVID L. PARR

Former officials of a huge dairy cooperative

Secretary John B. Connally and conspiracy to make illegal payments to a list of public officials including Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (Dem-Minn.) and Edmund S. Muskie (Dem-Maine).

Other charges against him included payment of \$100,000 to former President Nixon's one-time personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach, "for the purpose of gaining access to White House officials by officers of AMPI," and \$5000 to the unsuccessful Senate campaign of former Vermont Governor Philip A. Hoff.

Connally has pleaded not guilty to charges that he accepted a \$10,000 AMPI bribe. That payment was made, the special prosecutor has alleged, in connection with former President Nixon's order raising milk price supports in late March, 1971. Mr. Nixon's action reversed a decision by his own secretary of agriculture.

Parr pleaded guilty July 23 to conspiring to make illegal campaign contributions. He told the judge, "I am sorry."

Parr was linked in the criminal information to illegal contributions to Representative Wilbur D. Mills (Dem-Ark.) to Senators Humphrey, James Abourezk



LPI Telephoto

HAROLD NELSON

(Dem-S.D.) and Dick Clark (Dem-Iowa) and to former Representatives Patrick J. Hillings (Rep-Calif.) and Page Belcher (Rep-Okla.).

AMPI itself pleaded guilty August 2 to five counts of making illegal campaign contributions and was fined \$35,000.

AMPI, which has 40,000 farmer members, is one of three so-called "super co-ops" which in the past five years have brought in millions of campaign contributions from their members to spend on politicians.

In 1969, AMPI set up an entirely legal political arm called TAPE, or the Trust for Agricultural Political Education. But beyond the apparently proper actions of TAPE, AMPI leaders decided on a series of undercover payments to the White House and the Congress which were carried on the corporate books as payments to lawyers, advertising agencies and public relations men.

The legal payments, according to campaign records, amounted to \$557,000 in the 1972 campaign, while other campaign and court records indicate more than \$1-million was given covertly.

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