

# Prosecutors to Use Nixon Tape

Washington

John B. Connally's bribery trial opened yesterday with disclosure by Watergate prosecutors that they will use a key White House tape as evidence against the former Treasury secretary and Texas Governor.

The prosecution announcement came as the court began selecting a jury to hear charges that while Connally headed the Treasury Department he received \$10,000 from a milk producers cooperative in return for his help in obtaining a 1971 increase in federal price supports for raw milk.

Connally would face a maximum penalty of 19 years in prison and \$50,000 in fines if convicted on the two bribery counts.

Watergate prosecutor Frank Tuerkheimer told the jurors he will use as evidence the tape of former President Nixon's March 23, 1971, meeting with Connally and other top administration officials to discuss increasing price support for raw milk.

It was following that meeting that Mr. Nixon overruled

the advice of his top agricultural advisers and increased the price support.

Connally argued strongly at that meeting for higher support, and prosecutors charged that his backing was tied to two bribes of \$5000 each paid him by a milk producers' lawyers.

That lawyer, Jake Jacobsen, has pleaded guilty of making an illegal payment to a public official. He will be the principal prosecution witness in the case. Connally is accused of accepting \$10,000 in milk producers' money during meetings with Jacobsen in Texas.

The transcript of the March 23 meeting gives no indication that the milk producers' \$2 million pledge to the Nixon campaign was discussed. But Connally argued for increasing the price support and warned that if increases were not forthcoming, Mr. Nixon would suffer political setbacks in several midwestern states.

When the first day of the trial ended late yesterday afternoon, the court was in the final stages of selecting a jury. A panel of 44 prospective jurors was chosen

from which the final 12 members and six alternates will be selected this morning.

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