

CONNALLY LAWYER URGES ACQUITTAL

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Williams Assails Jacobsen
in a Motion to Judge

NYTimes

WASHINGTON, April 11 (AP)

—John B. Connally's lawyer asked today that the former treasury secretary's bribery trial be halted by judicial order because he said, the Government testimony on the uncorroborated testimony of a single witness who is an admitted perjurer.

In a motion asking for a judgment of acquittal, Edward Bennett Williams, the lawyer, said that the Government had failed to present sufficient proof in the prosecution phase, which ended yesterday. Mr. Connally's trial, on charges that he took two illegal payoffs of \$5,000 each is scheduled to go into its third week Monday.

Mr. Williams said the prosecution's key witness, Jake Jacobsen, "has served as an informer paid by the Government for his information, not in money, [but] in the more valuable coin of whitewashes of his other crimes."

He said that Mr. Jacobsen's testimony is "thrice-tainted because Jacobsen is an accomplice, traded his testimony for dismissal of other charges, and has committed multiple perjuries."

Testimony on Payoffs

Mr. Jacobsen testified that he had paid Mr. Connally \$10,000—and perhaps \$15,000—in return for the former Cabinet officer's help in getting a 1971 milk price support increase.

Mr. Jacobsen, legislative counsel to Lyndon B. Johnson when he was President, and a long-time Texas associate of Mr. Connally, won dismissal of fraud charges in a Texas bank case and an indictment in the Connally bribery case for agreeing to testify at the trial.

A witness like Mr. Jacobsen, Mr. Williams said in the motion, is looked upon by the law with a "high degree of suspicion," and the jury would need to be instructed to receive his testimony "with caution and scrutinize it with great care."

He said that the chief United States District Judge, George L. Hart Jr., should find that

a reasonable person cannot find Mr. Connally guilty beyond reasonable doubt on Mr. Jacobsen's testimony alone.

Judge Hart said that the issue would be argued Monday before the defense begins its case. A ruling of acquittal would mean that the trial would be halted at midpoint and Mr. Connally would go free. Such motions are routine after the prosecution rests its case and are rarely granted.

Of the 36 witnesses put on in five days of trial, only Mr. Jacobsen testified to the payoff itself. The other Government witnesses were called mainly to bolster his story with bank records and other documents.