

WXPost
**Connally Says
He Erred
In Testimony**

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Treasury Secretary

John B. Connally, under cross-examination as the final witness at his bribery trial here, yesterday admitted he had made several errors in his sworn testimony before a grand jury and a Senate committee about his dealings with Texas lawyer Jake Jacobsen.

However, Connally stuck by his denials that Jacobsen had ever given him cash payoffs for his aid on a milk price support increase in 1971, or that the two of them had conspired together in 1973 to cover up the alleged \$10,000 in illegal payments.

Connally testified nearly six hours as the 11th witness for his defense. He appeared calm and confident throughout most of that testimony, although his face would flush as he sparred on several points with prosecutor Frank Tuerkheimer.

Assistant Watergate Special Prosecutor Tuerkheimer and defense attorney Edward Bennett Williams are expected to give their closing arguments to the jury when court resumes this morning, after which the jury will receive legal instructions from U.S. District Court Chief Judge George L. Hart Jr.

The jury could begin deliberations by late afternoon, depending on the amount of time used by each side in the total of four hours and 30 minutes set aside for closing arguments.

During his cross-examination, Connally attributed what he described as mistakes in his grand jury and Senate testimony to his misunderstanding of certain questions, his faulty memory and his lack of preparation for those quizzes.

He said that when he was questioned before the Senate Watergate committee and the grand jury about the alleged payoffs: "Frankly, I just didn't think it was going to amount to a hill of beans and I just didn't pay that much attention to it. I should have but I didn't."

In another response, he

See CONNALLY, A7, Col. 1

CONNALLY, From A1

said: "I made no effort to familiarize myself with every detail... I knew I hadn't done anything wrong... I thought it would be a cursory type of questions and answers. Never in my wildest dreams at that time, never in my wildest nightmares back then could I foresee I would be sitting here today."

Williams had ended his direct examination of Connally with a series of four questions, which allowed Connally to deny with vigor the basic allegations against him: that Jacobsen gave him \$5,000 on two occasions in 1971, and that Connally gave Jacobsen \$10,000 on two occasions in 1973 in two separate attempts to cover up the alleged payoffs.

Tuerkheimer focused in his cross-examination on the time period of the alleged cover-up. Jacobsen had testified that in October and November, 1973, as investigators were digging into the financial records of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc., (AMPI), he and Connally had concocted a cover story about the alleged 1971 payoffs.

The alleged cover story, as recounted by Jacobsen, was that he had offered the \$10,000 to Connally on two occasions for use as political contributions in his name, but that Connally rejected both offers.

Connally said that story—the offer for political contributions and the rejection of the offers—is true. It is the same version he gave to the Senate and the grand jury, and to which he testified in court during his current trial.

Jacobsen at first had also testified in that way to a grand jury and Senate committee, but later plea-bargained with prosecutors after being charged with perjury for that testimony. In exchange for his testimony, Jacobsen has pleaded guilty to one count carrying a maximum prison term of two years, compared with prison terms of up to 40 years he faced on various counts here and in Texas before beginning his cooperation with prosecutors.

Connally and Jacobsen have given the following apparently conflicting versions of various meetings and events during the alleged cover-up:

• Oct. 26, 1973: Jacobsen said he met with Connally in an Austin, Tex., hotel in the early morning. A hotel employee gave similar testimony. Connally had previously told a grand jury the meeting occur-

red in late afternoon. Jacobsen said the cover story was concocted at that meeting; Connally said during the current trial he told Jacobsen to "tell the truth" about offering money to him on two occasions for political contributions. He said he had been wrong about the time of the meeting.

• Oct. 29, 1973: Jacobsen said Connally, in Connally's Houston law office, gave him \$10,000 in a cigar box containing rubber gloves, so Jacobsen could put the cash in a safe deposit box as part of their alleged cover story.

Connally said that he called Jacobsen to Houston to discuss a bank charter problem of a client with him, and that he wanted to see Jacobsen in person to see if he was continuing to be morose—as others has said he was—about his recent filing for bankruptcy. Connally denies giving Jacobsen any money, or having a cigar box or rubber gloves.

• Nov. 14, 1973: Connally told a grand jury he has met only once with Jacobsen in the past three or four weeks. He said he misunderstood the question, thinking the prosecutors had asked him when was the last time he saw Jacobsen.

• Nov. 25, 1973: Jacobsen said Connally gave him another \$10,000—to replace the first \$10,000 in a safe deposit box—wrapped in a newspaper at the Austin, home of former presidential press secretary George Christian. Christian said he did not see such an exchange take place, and Connally said he did not give Jacobsen anything—except advice that he should come out of his depression over going bankrupt.