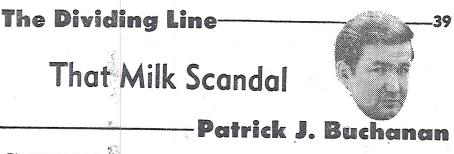
SFChronicle

AUG 1 1 1976



CARTER-MONDALE, the love-andcompassion ticket, has made clear its intention to force-march America through the Watergate swamp, if that road leads to the White House. If John Connally is on the Republican ticket, suggests Jimmy, "public trust" will become an issue.

The cloud that supposedly hangs over the silver locks of the former Treasury Secretary is, of course, his dealings indirectly with the nation's milk producers — a matter for which Connally was indicted, and of which he was acquitted.

But before Carter tables the matter of milk money, he might have a heartto-heart with his vice presidential choic, Walter Mondale.

BREFLY, let us review the history of the milk decision, which brought such subsequent grief to the Nixon Whie House.

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n early March of 1971, the Nixon administration announced it would not rais the milk support price from about 80 er cent to 85 per cent of parity. Reisal to do so meant potential loss of huireds of millions of dollars to U.S. mi producers — similar savings for coumers. When the negative decision wa announced, the Associated Milk Pricers, Inc. (AMPI), other dairy loyists and their congressional allies moted a ferocious campaign to overtu it. Legislation, sponsored by SenatoWalter Mondale and others, was introduced to overturn the decision.

About to be rolled, the Nixon White House reversed itself. Support prices were raised to 85 per cent of parity; and the heavens opened and rained milk dollars on the Committee to Reelect the President.

Not all those milk dollars went into the coffers of CREEP. They were spread all over Capitol Hill. And 5000 of them were used to purchase tickets to a June 5, 1971 fund-raiser of Senator Walter Mondale.

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HERE, the plot thickens. Not only did AMPI shell out five grand for Mondale's feast, two political agents, working on Mondale's behalf, apparently demanded, repeatedly, that the AMPI contribution be jacked up to \$25,000. This is the allegation of Bob Lilly, political agent of AMPI.

AMPI did not give the \$25,000 to Mondale. However, that exact sum was deposited in July of 1971 with Valentine and Sherman Associates, a Minneapolis mailing operation with close ties to the Democratic party.

These facts were revealed May 18, 1974, in a story by Minneapolis Tribune Washington correspondent Frank Wright. There was no follow-up by the national press, however.

Congress subsequently cut the statute of limitations on campaign contribution violations from five to three years — saving a lot of the good ole boys a lot of embarrassment.

Arthur Hoppe is on vacation