

Connally Bribe Trial Witness Gets Probation and Lecture

Washington

Convicted milk lobbyist Jake Jacobsen, star witness at last year's bribery trial of John Connally, received two years' probation and a stiff lecture from a federal judge yesterday.

Jacobsen once denied under oath allegations that he paid \$10,000 illegally to then-Treasury Secretary Connally for help in getting then-President Nixon to increase federal milk price supports in 1971. But in return for reduced federal charges Jacobsen later changed his testimony and pleaded guilty to one federal count of paying the bribe money to Connally.

A federal jury last year acquitted Connally of the bribe allegation. Connally's lawyers attacked Jacobsen during the trial as a liar who sold out an old friend to save himself.

U.S. District Judge George Hart said the only reason he didn't send Jacobsen to prison is that Jacobsen's wife is ill and without Jacobsen's care she would have to be sent to a public institution, where her doctors say she could die.

Calling Jacobsen "an admitted perjurer," Hart told him "you richly deserve to be imprisoned for a substantial period of time. . . . You have walked with princes in your time and you have been reduced to the degradation of the common criminal."

Maximum sentence on Jacob-



AP Wirephoto

JAKE JACOBSEN
Former dairy lobbyist

sen's bribery charge was two years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Hart at first awarded Jacobsen the maximum sentence but suspended the prison term and remitted the fine before putting Jacobsen on federal probation.

As part of the deal with Jacobsen, federal prosecutors agreed to excuse him of unrelated charges that he helped swindle \$825,000 from a savings and loan association in San Angelo, Tex., of which he had been part-owner.

Outraged by that arrangement,

a federal district judge in Dallas appointed special prosecutors to try Jacobsen on the savings and loan charges anyway. However, a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the government's plea bargaining arrangement should stand, and the Supreme Court recently ruled in Jacobsen's sentencing on the bribe count for two years.

Meanwhile, state authorities prosecuted Jacobsen in the savings and loan case. He pleaded no contest and was sentenced to seven years' probation. Also, the state bar association suspended his right to practice law for the same amount of time. The state case is on appeal.

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