

JACOBSEN SPARED PRISON SENTENCE

Judge Gives Him Probation
in Milk Price Scandal

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 (AP) — Jake Jacobsen, the former lobbyist, was sentenced today to two years' probation for his part in a milk price scandal in the Nixon Administration.

Federal District Judge George L. Hart said that Mr. Jacobsen "richly deserved" to be jailed, but that he was the only person able to care for his ailing wife, who might die if her husband were imprisoned.

Mr. Jacobsen, onetime White House lawyer for President Johnson, was indicted for his role in representing the giant dairy farmer cooperative Associated Milk Producers Inc.

He pleaded guilty to a charge of bribing John B. Connally, then the Secretary of the Treasury, because of Mr. Connally's recommendation that Federal milk price imports be increased in 1971. He was excused from other charges of swindling a Texas savings and loan association of \$825,000.

'Walked With Princes'

Mr. Connally was indicted for taking the dairymen's money, but was acquitted in a jury trial last year. Mr. Jacobsen was a key witness against him.

Mr. Jacobsen's attorney, Charles A. McNelis, said that his client deserved mercy because he was bankrupt and a convicted felon, faced a seven-year suspension from law practice in Texas, had been sentenced to seven years' probation on state charges in the savings and loan case and cooperated with the Government in the prosecution of Mr. Connally and in other cases.

Judge Hart told Mr. Jacobsen: "You richly deserve to be imprisoned for a substantial period of time. You have walked with princes in your time, and now you have been reduced to the degradation of the common criminal."

But he said that his presentencing investigation had con-



United Press International
Jake Jacobsen after he was
sentenced in Washington.

vinced him that Mr. Jacobsen's wife had been ill for many years, and that Mr. Jacobsen had been "more than a model of conjugal devotion."

The nature of Mrs. Jacobsen's illness was not discussed in court. Mr. Jacobsen said, "I hope your honor will take into consideration the physical and mental condition of my wife and my financial condition." Mr. McNelis said that Mrs. Jacobsen faced surgery.

Judge Hart said that if he sent Mr. Jacobsen to prison, his wife would have to be sent to a public institution. "I'm advised by her doctor that that could be fatal," he said.

[In Austin, Tex., Mr. Jacobsen's wife, Florence, said that she had suffered for two or three years from nervous disorders and had been treated in hospitals several times. United Press International reported.

"Well, I had a nervous breakdown, and I can't seem to get over my nervousness," she said. "So that's what I'm trying to do now. I don't know what would happen to me if something happened to him. I would just completely collapse. I really don't know."

("My blood pressure is high, and I have an ulcer—all sorts of things. I feel just fair. I haven't been out of the hospital very long. I have to go every few weeks.")

[Informed of the probated sentence, Mrs. Jacobsen said, "I'm pleased to hear it. It's wonderful."]