

State and Local

Former governor tells U.S. court he has \$93 million in liabilities

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Gov. John B. Connally told the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday that he has \$850 cash on hand, \$45,100 on deposit and \$93.3 million in liabilities.

Connally's financial statement listed assets totaling just over \$13 million, including \$12.3 million in real property and approximately \$4,000 in uncirculated \$1 bills that were among the first to bear his signature as U.S. Treasury secretary.

Mark Browning, a lawyer representing Connally, said a meeting of Connally's creditors was scheduled for Thursday, as was a separate meeting of creditors for the Barnes-Connally Partnership and other partnerships.

Connally, 70, sought protection under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws on July 31, seeking to reorganize his debts.

Barnes-Connally, the company he formed with former Texas Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, filed for liquidation under Chapter 7 of the same day. Several of their other partnerships also filed under Chapter 7 and Chapter 11.

Connally was Texas governor from 1963 to 1969. He served as U.S. Navy secretary under Presi-

dent John F. Kennedy and as Treasury secretary under Richard Nixon. In 1980, he unsuccessfully sought the Republican Party's nomination for president.

In an interview last month,

"People had faith and confidence in me, and they loaned me money. Now I think I owe it to them to use every asset I have available to me to try to satisfy as much of those debts as possible."

— John B. Connally, former Texas governor

Connally told the Associated Press that he planned to repay as many debts as possible.

"People had faith and confidence in me, and they loaned me money," he said. "Now I think I owe it to them to use every asset I have available to me to try to satisfy as much of those debts as possible."

According to the statements Connally filed in court Wednesday, his assets include his 3,495-acre Picoso Ranch at Floresville, valued at \$3.49 million.

The documents say Connally will claim as exempt 200 acres of that ranch and \$30,000 in per-

sonal property that he is allowed to claim under Texas laws.

Other assets include \$156,700 in farm implements and supplies, \$1,250 in livestock and other animals, and \$348,550 interest in

corporation and unincorporated companies.

Real property claimed as assets includes the 10,400-acre Rose Ranch in Del Rio, valued at \$3.06 million; the 836-acre River Ranch in Wilson County, \$1.04 million, and the 2,674-acre Sand Hills Ranch, also in Wilson County, \$3.34 million.

He listed a Houston condominium valued at \$475,000, and a house in the Barnes-Connally development in Austin, the Estates of Barton Creek, valued at \$900,000.

Connally's liabilities included \$9.3 million owed secured cred-

itors and nearly \$84 million owed unsecured creditors.

Major unsecured creditors include San Antonio Savings Association, \$17.2 million; CreditBanc Savings, Austin, \$12.54 million; Vernon Savings & Loan Association, Vernon, \$11.5 million; Bell Savings & Loan Association, San Mateo, Calif., \$11.1 million; First Republic Bank-Dallas, \$6.4 million; Western Savings Association, Gatesville, \$5.7 million, and RepublicBank-Dallas, \$4.8 million.

Secured creditors listed in the filings included the Travelers Insurance Co., \$4.8 million; Lockheed Financial Corp., \$1.6 million, Love Field National Bank, Dallas, \$1.4 million, and North American Mortgage, Houston, \$500,000.

Connally has blamed the downturn in the Texas economy, which was compounded by the collapse of oil prices late in 1985.

"We got into it, unfortunately, at the wrong time," Connally said in August. "We got into it heavily in 1982 and 1983, and just about the time we got committed on a lot of major projects the economic turnaround came and there just wasn't much we could do about it."

District attorney held in contempt of court, gets 3-day sentence

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes was sentenced to three days in jail Wednesday after being held in contempt of court for refusing to prosecute a burglary case.

Holmes declined to prosecute the case as a challenge to a state law that he says will prohibit visiting judges from helping ease the workload of full-time judges.

He was jailed without bond, but arrangements were being made to secure his release, his secretary Jo Tinkle said.

"We've filed for a writ of habeas corpus with the Court of Criminal Appeals asking he be released pending a hearing," Assistant District Attorney Calvin Hartman said Wednesday.

The appellate court in Austin, the only body able to set a bond for Holmes, probably would rule soon on the matter, Hartman said.

The incident began Tuesday when Holmes refused to prosecute Freddie Charles Miller, 30, for the alleged burglary of a building.

Visiting State District Judge Pete Moore, who also criticized the change in the law, found Holmes in contempt. Moore sentenced Holmes and then released him on his own re-

cognizance until a Wednesday morning hearing, in which the ruling was upheld.

Holmes' office interprets the new Government Code as prohibiting Moore from hearing the burglary case because State District Judge Jay Burnett, for whom Moore was substituting, was presiding over a capital murder case across the hall.

The law, which went into effect Tuesday, is being criticized by Holmes and area judges. They say the legal system will bog down if the county is not allowed to use visiting judges to help elected judges who are tied up for weeks on capital murder cases.

At issue is a section of the new code which says visiting judges cannot conduct business for an elected judge if the elected judge is sitting on the bench. Visiting judges are used frequently in Harris County.

In 1983 two laws were enacted affecting Harris County criminal district courts. One barred visiting judges from conducting court while the judge for whom they were substituting were presiding over court elsewhere. A second law, considered a qualifier to the first law, said visiting judges could substitute for judges who are presiding over capital murder trials.

Sergeant gets life sentence for murder, attempted rape

AUSTIN (AP) — Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gerald Mobley was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for the murder and attempted rape of a Bergstrom Air Force Base employee.

A panel of eight Air Force officers deliberated for three hours before sentencing Mobley, 34, to prison rather than to death, their only other option. Mobley could be eligible for parole in 10 years, Air Force officials said.

Mobley, whose wife and three children were at Bergstrom for the sentencing hear-

ing, said "No sir," when the judge, Col. Philip F. O'Neill, read the verdict and asked if he had any questions. Mobley then sat and broke into tears.

The sergeant, a 15-year veteran, was found guilty in the February death of Cynthia Torres, a civilian cashier at the Bergstrom Non-Commissioned Officers' Club.

Mobley, who was stationed at George Air Force Base near Victorville, California, was temporarily assigned to Bergstrom at the time Torres was killed.

The decision of the military court goes to

the 12th Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, who convened the court martial and who can receive further pleadings from the defense.

McPeak can confirm the sentence, reduce it or decide that insufficient evidence was presented during the trial for a conviction. After a decision by McPeak, the sentence automatically will be appealed to the Air Force Court of Military Appeals in Washington, officials said.

Capt. Mahala Sawyer, the only female member of the jury, said the panel consid-

ered Mobley's unblemished service record and the evidence presented at the trial in deciding on a life sentence.

"It's always difficult when someone's life is in jeopardy," she said.

Torres, a 25-year-old mother of two, was found near death February 7 in the parking lot of the club by her husband, an airman at the base. She had been strangled with her automobile's seat belt. She died two days later.

During the trial circumstantial evidence was introduced that linked Mobley to the

crime. Blood found on Mobley's clothes matched that of the victim, according to testimony in the trial. No eyewitnesses were produced.

Prosecutors called 23 witnesses to testify in the guilt phase of the trial, while the defense called no one to the stand. In the sentencing phase, the defense called 18 character witnesses, including Mobley's family and friends, and the prosecution called two witnesses, both Air Force personnel.

The last time a U.S. service man was sentenced to death after a court martial was in 1961.

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