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Green explains \$800 payment in cash

Gretna city attorney accuses judge of lying

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The secretly videotaped transaction of state Judge Alan Green pocketing one of two \$5,000 cash payments from a Bail Bonds Unlimited employee became public long before this week's racketeering trial and was expected to be a central part of the federal government's case against the jurist.

But much attention also has gone to eight \$100 bills that Green took from Gretna City Attorney W.J. LeBlanc on April 3, 2002.

The \$800 payment was intended as a contribution to the campaign of Green's niece, state Rep. Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, D-New Orleans, daughter of U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-New Orleans, prosecutors and defense attorneys have agreed. It, too, was secretly recorded in Green's chambers, and jurors first saw the tape Tuesday.

And they kept hearing about it through Friday, when Green testified that it was LeBlanc who wanted to give cash, instead of a check, because he didn't want his name linked to the donation.

LeBlanc "did not want his name to appear in association with any black political organization or any campaign finance reports of a black political candidate in New Orleans," Green said.

LeBlanc, who is white and is listed as a potential witness for both sides, said in an interview Friday that Green was lying.

"I think that this is just another lie by the judge desperate to deflect attention from his own actions," said LeBlanc, who has not taken the stand. "The record clearly shows that I have proudly contributed to Mayor Ray Nagin, Mayor Marc Morial, Marlin Gusman, Senator Ed Murray, Judge Terri Love, Judge Sidney Cates -- all fine African-American elected officials."

Prosecutor Mike Magner also challenged Green's statement during cross-examination. Citing state records that show LeBlanc had contributed to the campaigns of several African-American politicians, Magner also showed jurors a letter for one of Green's campaigns in which LeBlanc's name appeared at the top of a list of supporters.

Referring to the judge's statement about LeBlanc, Magner told Green: "You just (said) that, because you believed you could just mislead and snooker this jury."

"No, I did not," Green answered, then added that LeBlanc did not want his name listed in campaign records of a "female" African-American candidate in New Orleans, such as Jefferson-Bullock.

The video also shows Green removing \$300 from the stack of eight \$100 bills after LeBlanc's departure, and placing the money in his wallet. Green said he needed the cash to pay for a luncheon that same day, but that he gave the full \$800 that evening to his sister Andrea Green-Jefferson, Jefferson-Bullock's mother.

Jefferson-Bullock and three of her political aides testified this week that the campaign never received money from Green. A spokeswoman for William Jefferson said Green-Jefferson declined to comment.

Another of the judge's sisters, Lisa Green-Campbell, testified Friday that she worked for Jefferson-Bullock's campaign and that Green-Jefferson gave her an envelope with several hundred dollars for fund-raising expenses. But Green-Campbell could not recall the amount in the envelope and did not specify if the money was the cash LeBlanc had given Green.

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