

G. Bradford Cook awaits court verdict

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Nebraska Congressman Charles Thone; Marshall Field of Chicago; Richard Harnsberger, professor of law at NU; Henry M. Grether, dean of Nebraska's law college, and Alan C. McIntosh, editor and publisher of the Luverne, Minn., *Star-Herald*, who wrote, "I have known Brad since he was one week old. If I could have been destined to have a son instead of a daughter, I would have hoped to get a carbon copy likeness of Brad Cook. I saw him work under an assumed name in a tough construction trucking job. He did that because he wanted no special favors, but wanted to be treated as though he was Joe Doakes."

Dean Grether wrote, "I believe Brad Cook is a young man who has learned a difficult but valuable lesson. He is probably a stronger man because of his experiences."

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Most of the letters, sent as evidence for the disbarment hearing, say that if Cook were disbarred, it would be, in effect, punishing him for telling the truth, even though belatedly.

Jaworski support

A letter from Leon Jaworski, former Watergate special prosecutor, said, "To prosecute an individual who corrects his testimony and then continues to cooperate fully with the prosecution would only discourage people from coming forward with the truth and thereby deter efforts to uncover possible criminal activity . . . the speed with which he came forward with the true story—we have determined not to pursue an indictment of Mr. Cook for perjury."

But a grand jury did indict Mitchell and Stans.

When Cook found out they were acquitted and that Vesco had flown to Costa Rica, he was disappointed, but he says, "I know I did the right thing and I will live with it and overcome it eventually."

'Not raised that way'

In testimony at the disbarment hearing, Cook said, "Nobody was hovering around over me, threatening me in any way. I am convinced that I could have, to put it in the parlance of Washington talk, stonewalled it, gutted it out and probably still been a commissioner of the SEC or chairman. But that's not the way I was raised."

So now Cook, who, with his wife Laura is raising four children, waits in Washington, D.C., to find out what the Nebraska Supreme Court decides.

And though Cook has no money problems—his wife is a member of the Armour Meat Co. family of Chicago—the wait is depressing.

He has plenty of time to think, he says. To think about what might have been and to think about the future.

"I hope that I can climb back up, and even higher," he says. "I'm certainly not going into the desert. I'm not going to be beaten that way."

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