

## Agnew's bagman admits contribution charge

BALTIMORE (AP)—A Maryland banker once described in court as Spiro T. Agnew's bagman pleaded guilty Thursday to arranging an illegal contribution to the 1972 Nixon-Agnew reelection campaign.

J. Walter Jones Jr., the banker, admitted his participation as part of a plea-bargaining arrangement in which federal prosecutors dropped eight other charges against him.

Among the charges that were dropped were extortion and conspiracy counts.

Plato Cacheris, Jones' lawyer, said his client admits arranging the illegal contribution but denies other allegations made by prosecutors.

Sentencing was scheduled for March 28. Under the agreement, prosecutors may make any recommendation about Jones' penalty at the time of sentencing in U.S. District Court here.

Jones, 56, a longtime friend of Agnew, faces a maximum sentence of five years in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Jones was charged in connection with a \$15,000 payment from the Singer Co., in violation of federal laws prohibiting campaign contributions from corporations or labor unions.

ment with a Washington area architect to take kickbacks for helping influence the award of federal design contracts and for obtaining federal support for housing projects.

The prosecutor said Singer, which manufactures computerized simulation devices in addition to sewing machines, was having difficulty at the time acquiring government contracts.

Fanseen and John W. Steffey, a real estate executive and former Maryland state senator who was chairman of the Maryland Finance Committee to Reelect the President in 1972, earlier pleaded no contest to minor charges in the case.

Steffey received probation while Fanseen, a former police magistrate, agreed to cooperate with prosecutors and was not sentenced.

Two Singer officials also pleaded guilty to minor charges in the case and were fined by U.S. District Judge R. Dorsey Watkins.

Agnew pleaded no contest to a tax evasion charge and resigned the vice presidency Oct. 10, 1973.

A 40-page statement of evidence submitted in court by the Justice Depart-

ment that day said Agnew, while vice president, Maryland governor and Baltimore County executive, demanded kickbacks from architects and engineers as a condition to receiving government work.

Agnew has denied the kickback allegations.

Hurson said that Matz, who has not been charged in the case, turned over \$10,000 of the Singer money to Jones' chauffeur, keeping the remaining \$5,000 to pay federal income tax on his "consultant's fee."

Fanseen was informed by Jones to tell the Singer officials they would not be prosecuted for election law violations as long as the money was reported and the tax paid because of Jones' relationship with Agnew and then-Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, Hurson continued.

The individual Singer officials were at first reported as contributors of the \$10,000 received by the reelection committee. But later the names of Fanseen and two Washington lawyers were substituted when a Singer official complained about being linked to the payment, the prosecutor said.