

# Agnew Fund Raiser Enters Guilty Plea to Soliciting Illegal Gift

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BALTIMORE, March 10—J. Walter Jones, an Annapolis banker who was one of former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's closet friends and most active political fund raisers, pleaded guilty today to soliciting an illegal \$10,000 contribution to the 1972 Republican presidential campaign.

Federal prosecutors also charged today that Jones received cash payments from a Washington area architect in exchange for using his influence to obtain architectural contracts from the federal General Services Administration. Prosecutors said that Jones received 5 per cent of the awarded contract price from the unnamed architect. Jones' attorney denied the charges.

Jones' guilty plea brings to a close a series of criminal cases that began two years ago with the indictment of Jones and three others in connection with the illegal \$10,000 contribution.

Prosecutors had alleged that Jones obtained the contribution from the Singer Company after assuring its officers that the company would benefit from favorable treatment in the handling of federal contracts on the part of the Nixon administration.

The four men—as well as the Singer Company—were indicted in March 1975. The 56-year-old Jones was described in court by federal prosecutors as the "bagman" who helped Agnew collect kickbacks from architects and engineers in Maryland.

The Singer Company and two of the three men charged, John W. Steffey, treasurer of the Maryland state finance committee for the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and James Fansen, a Baltimore lawyer who acted as a go-between in the scheme, pleaded no contest in the case a few weeks after the original indictment. Charges against the fourth man, Raymond A. Long, a Singer executive, were subsequently dismissed.

The Singer company, famous for its sewing machines, has been a major contractor with the General Services Administration because its Simulation Products Division manufactures sophisticated electronics gear that simulates the handling of ships and aircraft.

According to the prosecution's state-



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ment of the case, which was given to U.S. District Judge R. Dorsey Watkins today after Jones had entered his guilty plea, Jones, then chairman for the Maryland Finance committee for the Nixon-Agnew ticket, solicited the illegal contribution from Fanseen, the attorney and go-between in the scheme.

"Jones then proceeded to tell Fanseen that Singer, by giving a contribution, would ensure help for itself in the securing of future government contracts," Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Hurson told Judge Watkins.

"Jones indicated that he was aware that Singer has been having trouble with government contracts and that,

therefore, a substantial contribution wouldn't hurt them," Hurson said.

According to Hurson's summary, Fanseen then spoke with Arthur (Bud) Carter, general manager of the Simulations Products Division, about the Jones proposal. "Fanseen made it clear to Carter that because of Jones' close relationship with Vice President Agnew, when they spoke to Jones, they were speaking to Agnew," Hurson said.

Hurson said that a luncheon was then arranged at the Capitol Hill Club in Washington for Carter, Jones, Fanseen, campaign finance official Steffey and Martin A. Leader, another Singer executive. After the Singer representatives indicated their willingness to make a contribution, Jones suggested they launder the money by using "the consultant method," Hurson said.

"The Singer Company would make a check payable to a bogus consultant, who would deposit it as income and pay taxes on it. After those taxes were subtracted, the money would be transmitted" to the campaign, Hurson said.

"Jones assured those present that this would be perfectly safe," Hurson said, "because taxes would be paid and that was the only area of legal concern anyone would have."

Carter and Leader were subsequently indicted for conspiracy in connection with the contribution and were fined \$500 and \$250 respectively for their part in laundering the Singer money.

Jones' attorney, Plato Cacheris, objected to portions of the Hurson sum-

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view. The tract and other land has been designated as Piscataway Park, under federal auspices, but has not yet been developed.

Mrs. Bolton retained her home on Wyoming Avenue NW near the French Embassy, and used it during her visits here, which might have been as four times a year. She also kept houses in Maine and Palm Beach, Fla., where her father was one of the first people to build a winter vacation home.

Born Frances Payne Bingham on March 29, 1885, she was reared in the style of the newly wealthy society of industrial Cleveland, and in a climate of high-level Republican politics. Her father, Charles W. Bingham, banker and industrialist, was a close friend of William McKinley, Mark Hanna and William Howard Taft.

However, one of her grandfathers, Henry B. Payne, was a Democrat who represented Ohio both as a representative and a senator. One of his sons, Oliver Hazard Payne, was an early associate of John D. Rockefeller Sr., in the formation of the Standard Oil Company. Mrs. Bolton inherited a fortune from this uncle, among whose other heirs was her cousin, Payne Whitney, the New York financier.

day after her birth during the influenza epidemic of 1919. Mrs. Bolton also nearly died in the epidemic.

Her bout with influenza left Mrs. Bolton a near invalid, but she took up yoga exercises and regained her health and energy.

In 1928, her husband ran for Congress as a Republican from Ohio's 22d District, and won. He served in the House until 1939, except for a two-year hiatus when he was beaten during the Roosevelt landslide in 1936.

When her husband died in 1939, Mrs. Bolton successfully ran in a special election to replace him in the House.

When Mrs. Bolton was elected to Congress in 1939, she was "vaguely isolationist," as one writer described her. She voted the conventional Republican line of those days—against President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "billions for defense" legislation, Lend-Lease, and other measures. With the coming of Pearl Harbor, like other Republicans, her views changed.

The first significant piece of successful legislation she sponsored was the Bolton Act, which established the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps. More than 124,000 nurses were trained under the act, and nurses in uniform began re-