

Jury Silencing Scathed by 2 Md. Bar Units

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The president of the Maryland State and Baltimore Bar Associations criticized yesterday the silencing of a federal grand jury that has been consistently rebuffed in its efforts to return an indictment in an investigation involving members of Congress.

The special panel, which has been investigating allegations involving a Federal government contract, has been blocked twice by Attorney General John N. Mitchell, who has refused to let the federal prosecutor in Baltimore sign the panel's draft indictment.

On Tuesday, Judge Albert V. Bryan, of the Fourth U.S. Appeals Court in Alexandria, signed an order temporarily banning a lower court federal judge from publicly unsealing or publicly discussing a presentment containing the draft indictment that was returned by the panel last month.

Eli Frank Jr., president of the Maryland Bar Association, termed the action of Judge Bryan highly unusual because "there is no one to represent the other side — the people."

"It makes you wonder if the allegations on which Judge Bryan based his decision to delay could be supported if attacked by proper representatives of the grand jury's position," Frank said.

Harrison M. Robertson, president of the Baltimore Bar Association, called Judge Bryan's action "disturbing."

Frank said that the silencing of the panel is without precedent during his 45 years of legal experience.

The court order was requested by six prominent Washington and Baltimore lawyers who refused to give the actual names of their clients.

The lawyers will appear before Chief Judge Roszel C. Thomsen, of the U.S. District

Court in Baltimore, today in a closed hearing on a petition filed by them Monday to get the judge to suppress and expunge the presentment.

If Thomsen grants the motion, the case would probably be dead because the grand jury's 18-month term expires July 5.

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2 Bar Groups Hit Silencing Of U.S. Jury

JURY, From B1

The sealed draft indictment involves allegations that money was offered in exchange for political pressure on the Capitol Architect's office. The alleged purpose was to get approval for about \$5 million in extra payments over and about the initial \$11.7 million contract to build underground parking garages at the House of Representatives.

Prime contractor for the project was Baltimore Contractors, Inc., headed by Victor J. Frenkil, a prominent Maryland Democrat.

Also linked to the inquiry were Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.), former Sen. Daniel B. Brewster (D-Md.) and Nathan Voloshen, a long-time friend of House Speaker John W. McCormack and a prominent Capitol Hill lobbyist.

Brewster already has been indicted in another case on bribery charge. Voloshen pleaded guilty Wednesday in New York to charges involving use of McCormack's office for influence peddling.

The Justice Department in March rejected Sachs' recommendation that Long be indicted. Long is understood to be named in the presentment, but would not be indicted.