

Probe Leaks Blamed on Nixon Aides

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Maryland's U.S. Attorney, George Beall, has said some of the news leaks about the grand jury investigation of Spiro T. Agnew probably came from aides to President Nixon. Beall, who directed the Agnew probe, says he also believes some of the leaks came from the former Vice President's own staff because of friendships between newsmen and Agnew aides.

"There were unquestionably leaks from the White House. And I have to think the information to the press came from the Vice President's office sometimes," Beall said Wednesday night.

He made the comments during a speech before a joint meeting of the Maryland professional and University of Maryland student chapters of Sigma Delta Chi, a national journalism society.

Beall said he was "as sure as I possibly can be that my own staff leaked nothing" to the press.

Beall said White House leaks could have been part of a plan to pressure Agnew into resigning from the vice presidency. But Beall did not offer any evidence to substantiate that point, nor did he indicate from what level he thought the leaks may have come.

Spokesmen for President Nixon have denied that the White House leaked any information on the Agnew investigation to reporters.

Agnew resigned from the vice presidency and pleaded no contest to a federal income tax charge Oct. 10 following the grand jury probe into alleged political corruption in Maryland.

During the course of the investigation, Agnew repeatedly claimed that news leaks were infringing on his right to due process.