

Witness Says Payoffs Went To Agnew

By Douglas Watson *1/24/74*
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BALTIMORE, Jan. 13—Jerome B. Wolff, former executive of three Maryland engineering firms who served as chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission when Spiro T. Agnew was governor, today gave the first detailed public testimony about how he said kickbacks from consulting engineers were funneled to

Agnew.

Wolff said he knew that Agnew got half of about \$144,000 in kickbacks and the rest was divided between himself and I. H. (Bud) Hammerman, a Baltimore mortgage banker and Agnew campaign fundraiser. Wolff indicated that Agnew may have gotten more kickbacks from two consulting engineers whom Agnew dealt with directly.

Wolff, a key government witness against Baltimore County Executive Dale Anderson, also said in a day full of testimony that as an engineer he regularly paid illegal kickbacks to two public officials of two other Maryland jurisdictions, he was asked by prosecutors not to name. Wolff said he made payments to Anderson through an intermediary.

Defense attorney Norman Ramsey has told the jury of seven men and five women that the trial would reveal a "crazy quilt" pattern of illegal kickback payments not only in Baltimore County but in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City as well.

Wolff also testified that he made a \$2,000 payment in 1970 to a "man who occupied an office in government who had performed some work for me."

The payment was made through one of Wolff's engineering firms, J. E. Greiner and Co., which has its headquarters in Tampa, Fla., Wolff testified.

Ramsey asked Wolff if the payment was made to a "man named Kirk?" but prosecutors objected, saying that publiciz-

ing the man's name could be prejudicial and was not necessary and Wolff did not answer the question. There was no indication what "man named Kirk" Wolff was referring to.

In August 1970 when Wolff said the payment was made, Claude Kirk was the governor of Florida. The J. E. Greiner and Company was consulting engineer on road multi-million-dollar projects in Florida during Kirk's administration. The handling of those projects has been under investigation by the Miami state's attorney.

Claude Kirk could not be reached for comment yesterday but a close business and political associate denied Kirk was under investigation.

In addition to the kickbacks he collected in conspiracy with Agnew and Hammerman, Wolff testified, he collected another \$36,000 while head of the State Roads Commission for being "helpful" to Lester Matz, president of Matz, Childs and Associates Inc., and to Allen Green, head of Green Associates, Inc.

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