

Richardson Told Agnew Of Evidence Against Him

By NICHOLAS GAGE

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson met with Vice President Agnew early this month and outlined the substance of the evidence gathered by Federal prosecutors in Baltimore against the Vice President.

The New York Times has learned from sources close to the investigation of Mr. Agnew that the key elements of the case presented to the Vice President were the following:

More than 20 Maryland businessmen told prosecutors that they gave cash payments to Agnew associates in return for state and government contracts and they believed that some of the money was being funneled to Mr. Agnew.

At least three of the Agnew associates named by the businessmen told the prosecutors that they turned over some of the payments to Mr. Agnew. The three were Lester Matz and Jerome B. Wolff, engineering consultants in Baltimore, and Allen I. Green, once one of Mr. Agnew's closest friends.

Mr. Matz told prosecutors that he made one payment to

Vice President Agnew of \$2,500 in the summer of 1971 in return for his help in getting someone a job in the General Services Administration.

Mr. Matz said he turned over the money to Mr. Agnew in the presence of J. Walter Jones, a Maryland banker and political supporter of Mr. Agnew. But Mr. Jones has publicly denied participating in kickbacks or witnessing any being made.

Reached at his home in Annapolis tonight, Mr. Jones said, "If you're asking me directly if I was ever present when anything like that [payment of a kickback to Mr. Agnew] happened, I'll tell you that such a thing is ridiculous."

Some time before they began to talk to prosecutors, Mr. Matz and Mr. Wolff went to George White, Mr. Agnew's long-time personal attorney, and told him that if the Federal investigation in Baltimore was not stopped it was going to draw in the Vice President because they would tell what they knew, the sources said.

A spokesman for the Justice

Continued on Page 27, Column 1

Continued From Page 1, Col. 3

Department confirmed last night that Mr. Richardson had met with Mr. Agnew about the case. He said the meeting was held on Aug. 6 to supplement the information contained in the letter received the previous week by the Vice President from Gorge Beall, the United States Attorney in Baltimore, informing Mr. Agnew that he was under investigation.

While none of the former aides who said that they separately gave kickbacks to Mr. Agnew have been corroborated by other witnesses, the sources said the cumulative evidence collected thus far was enough for the prosecutors to seek an indictment against Mr. Agnew and that they intended to do so.

The three former Agnew associates have reportedly emphasized that they made cash payments to Mr. Agnew when he was Vice President, as well as when he was Governor of Maryland.

Mr. Green has told prosecutors that he gave kickbacks to Mr. Agnew about five times a year until 1969, and slightly less often since he became Vice President, the sources said.

Mr. Green was said to be the strongest witness against Mr. Agnew thus far because of his reputation and the fact that he was one of Mr. Agnew's closest friends.

Brother of U.S. Attorney

Mr. Green is president of Green Associates, Inc., an engineering concern base in Towson, Md. One of the concern's seven vice president is Richard Beall, a brother of George Beall, the United States Attorney for Maryland who is heading the investigation.

Mr. Matz is a partner in the Baltimore engineering consultants firm of Matz, Childs and Associates, and Mr. Wolff is president of Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of the J. E. Greiner Company, another engineering consultants concern. Both the Matz and the Wolff concerns won numerous contracts with the state while Mr. Agnew was Governor.

Other former associates of Mr. Agnew who have been questioned by the prosecutors in the case include I. H. Ham-

merman, a Baltimore investment broker. It is not known what position he has taken about cooperating in the investigation. He was one of Mr. Agnew's closest financial advisers when Mr. Agnew was Governor. Two other close advisers to Mr. Agnew on financial matters were Mr. Wolff and Mr. Jones.

The specific statutes that prosecutors have based their investigation on are bribery, conspiracy, tax evasion and violation of the Bobbs Act, which deals with extortion.

Mr. Agnew denounced reports that he took kickbacks as "damned lies" last Wednesday, the day after news of the investigation involving him broke.

The Vice President said at that time that he had no expectation of being indicted and had no intention of resigning from office. He also said rumors that he had done anything illegal as Governor of Maryland or as Vice President were "false, scurrilous and malicious."