

GSA Lease Involving Friends Of Sen. Scott Under Probe

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 30 (AP)—U.S. Attorney Robert E.J. Curran says the Justice Department is investigating a federal leasing contract involving friends and associates of Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.)

The investigation involves the General Service Administration agreement to lease regional offices in a building constructed by developer Matthew B. Weinstein, Curran said.

Weinstein has been a friend of Scott for 25 years, and negotiations for agreement were handled by Weinstein's nephew, Herbert Fogel.

There has been no evidence of involvement in the case by Scott.

Justice Department officials in Washington refused any comment on the Philadelphia investigation or whether it is at all related to the investigation of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew presently being conducted in Maryland.

George Beall, the U.S. attorney for Maryland, has informed Agnew that he is under investigation for possible violation of extortion, bribery, conspiracy and tax laws.

The investigation, according to informed sources, includes allegations that since Agnew became Vice President, money collected on his behalf from Maryland busi-

nessmen, ostensibly as campaign contributions, was used to influence the award of federal contracts by the GSA.

Curran said a complaint against the Philadelphia agreement was filed here five months ago, soon after it was reported that Weinstein was awarded the lease even though he submitted the high bid and failed to meet five criteria set by the GSA.

John W. Merriam, one of the losing bidders, has filed

a civil suit in U.S. District Court here charging that the lease was awarded on the basis of false information supplied by Weinstein.

The lease contract allowed Weinstein to build his 18-story Gateway Building near downtown Philadelphia, bribery, conspiracy and tax million a year in rents for 20 years.

The contract was approved by GSA administrator Robert L. Kunzig, a former aide to Scott and now a federal judge.