

Beall to Resign

By Douglas Watson
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BALTIMORE — George Beall, U.S. attorney for Maryland, plans to resign from his key prosecutorial post this year, sometime soon after Aug. 18.

Beall, 36, a Republican, insisted in an interview here Friday that he will not run for governor of Maryland or other statewide office this year, but probably will return to the private practice of law.

Beall said he expects his office's corruption probe to spread to more individuals and continue for months after the current extortion and bribery trial of Baltimore County Executive Dale Anderson.

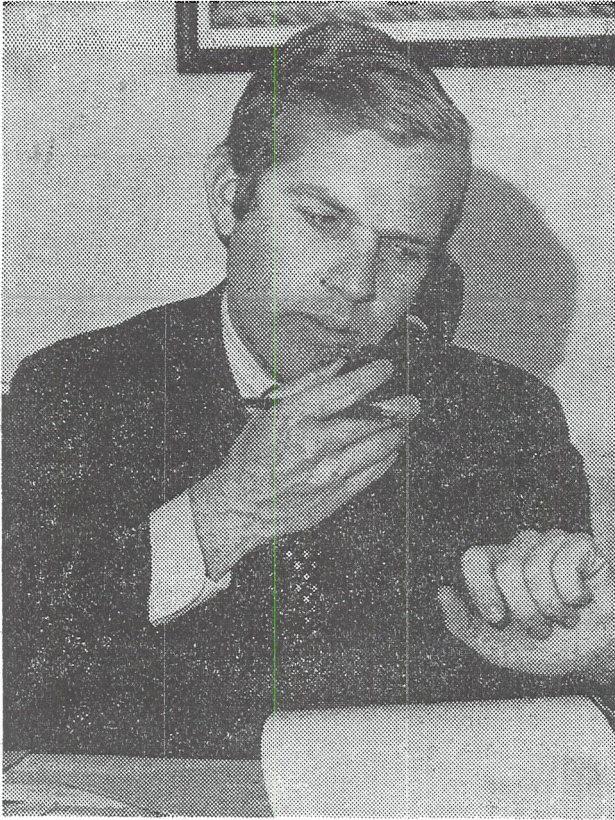
The thousands of 3-by-5 cards on which bankrupt stock manipulator Joel Kline listed the names of scores of other people allegedly involved in illegal ac-

tivities could be so valuable to the corruption probe, Beall joked, that "Kline could have given them to the National Archives and taken a tax deduction."

The chief federal prosecutor for Maryland said that with the expected spreading of the corruption probe, "We may have to involve some more attorneys" besides the three-man prosecutorial team now trying the case against Anderson—Assistant U.S. Attorneys Barnett D. Skolnik, Russell T. Baker Jr. and Ronald S. Liebman.

Since Beall and his assistants brought about the Oct. 10 resignation and "no contest" plea to tax evasion by former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, there has been speculation that Beall might run for governor this year.

But the athletic-looking Beall said, "I just think it would look terrible" because



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George Beall: Not planning to run for office.

as U. S. Attorney for Md.

it might be interpreted as an attempt to capitalize on the prominence he attained in the Agnew investigation.

Beall said he has told his 20-lawyer office that he will be leaving later this year. He said he recently has talked with several Baltimore law firms about joining them but has not made a decision on where he will be going.

Beall became U.S. attorney for Maryland in 1970 and could undoubtedly stay in his \$36,000-a-year job at least until after the 1976 presidential election. But Beall, noting that his four-year term formally expires on Aug. 18, said he is committed only to staying through that date expects to leave shortly afterwards.

Following his earning the national spotlight and the intense effort involved in the Agnew investigation, Beall said, he experienced a

let-down. Now, Beall said, he looking around for "the next is "trying to get back to relative anonymity" and is he is looking around for "the next mountain to climb."

"It's impossible to predict how long our corruption investigation will take," Beall said. He added that he hopes that by the time he leaves as U.S. attorney, "We will have turned over most of the rocks" and all the principal prosecutions will be under way, if not actually at the trial stage.

Beall noted that the term of the federal grand jury being used in the probe will expire in June, but said location of a new grand jury should not be an obstacle to the investigation. Beall declined to comment on the Anderson trial, which is about to start its seventh week, or on the future of the Maryland probe.

Informed sources have disclosed that two engineers

who provided evidence against Agnew and Anderson have also told Beall's office that they made cash payments to Anne Arundel County Executive Joseph W. Alton Jr. Alton is expected to be one of the first public officials to get full-time attention from Beall's office after Anderson's trial is over.

Another person expected to be a target of Beall's office in coming months is J. Walter Jones, a wealthy Annapolis banker and longtime fund-raiser for Agnew, informed sources have said previously.

Jones is the "close associate" and "middleman" referred to but not identified by the Justice Department in its 40-page compilation of evidence against Agnew, according to informed sources. That document cited the testimony of four Maryland businessmen who said they

personally paid bribes to Agnew.

Witnesses in Anderson's trial have told of paying bribes to unnamed officials in two other unspecified Maryland jurisdictions. The defense attorney in the Anderson trial has said the trial would reveal information on activities in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City.

The corruption probe is expected to spread wider than that. Montgomery County State's Attorney Andrew L. Sonner said Friday that his office has begun an investigation that will study the evidence provided by Kline, whose office was in Silver Spring until he was sentenced to a six-month prison term in November.

Investigators from Sonner's office, attended the Kline portion of Anderson's

See BEALL, C4, Col. 4

BEALL, From C1

trial last week and possibly will interview Kline in the near future

Beall asked Maryland state's attorneys not to prosecute the former Vice President on state charges following his federal plea. But Beall said he expects that others implicated in the corruption investigation will be pursued by local state's attorneys and that the U.S. attorney's office will share its accumulating evidence with local prosecutors.

The investigation of corruption by Beall's office is largely at a standstill now while the Anderson trial occupies the prosecutors. But Beall said the investigation by a team of 10 to 15 Internal Revenue Service agents headed by Robert Browne, chief of the IRS intelligence division for the region, has been steadily continuing.

Beall said there is close coordination between the IRS probers and his prosecutors, but the IRS men "are self-starters to some extent" and often don't need to consult with the prosecutors in following the evidence.

Kline has testified that federal investigators have catalogued his thousands of partially coded 3-by-5 cards into categories for 30 to 40 individuals who may become prime suspects. Kline said that so far he only has been questioned in depth about two or three of these people, including Anderson.

Beall said that his office will determine which of those persons implicated by Kline will receive the most attention from the prosecutors.

In Weighing priorities, Beall said, public officials who have broken the law are considered more important targets than private individuals who may be equally guilty. But Beall said he expects his office to go after both categories of offenders.

In the trial of Anderson on 43 counts of extortion, bribery, conspiracy and tax evasion, Beall's office has been willing to grant at least limited immunity to all the key government witnesses, assuring them that the evidence they provide cannot be used against them.

Beall said, however, he is opposed to granting total immunity from prosecution to one offender for testifying against another.

"The toughest decisions that we have to make are those involved in granting immunity and plea bargaining," Beall said.

One observer of the Anderson trial commented when Kline was testifying that it seemed the government "was using a whale to catch a minnow."

However, Beall said Kline's long-term usefulness to prosecutors will justify permitting Kline to plead guilty to merely one count of obstruction of justice, though the 34-year-old for-

mer financial "boy wonder" said in court, "There is probably not a white-collar crime that I haven't been involved in other than forgery."

One prominent Maryland defense lawyer said Kline's potentially devastating 3-by-5 cards "could put my kids through college" through the volume of legal work they could generate.

When in 1970 Beall was appointed U.S. attorney through the sponsorship of U.S. Sen. Charles McC. Mathias (R-Md.), there were many who wondered whether he could fill the shoes of his predecessor, Democrat Stephen H. Sachs, who successfully prosecuted or caused prosecution of a long list of public officials including former U.S. Sen. Daniel Brewster (D-Md.), Former Rep. John Dowdy (D-Tex.) and Former Rep. Thomas Johnson (D-Md.)

The doubts have long since ended. Assistant Prosecutor Skolnik, a Democrat who worked in Sen. Edmund Muskie's presidential campaign, said of his boss, Beall, a Republican who once campaigned for former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller:

"It's very easy to be a U.S. attorney and in effect just prosecute the cases which the federal investigative agencies—the FBI, the IRS and so forth—bring to you.

"Mr. Beall chose not to do the easy thing, but to make himself the kind of U.S. attorney who would aggressively look for cases . . . I think a lot of people outside the office and probably some inside weren't at all sure he could pull it off—but he has pulled it off beautifully. And I think the whole office respects him enormously for it."

Though Beall insists he won't run for statewide office this year, the son of former U.S. Sen. J. Glenn Beall (R-Md.) and brother of the state's present U.S. senator, doesn't try to hide his long-range interest in holding higher public office.

Beall conceded giving thought to running for governor but says he has concluded, "I don't see any circumstances under which I'd run." Beall noted that anyone seriously running for statewide office would have to devote full time to it well before August.

Asked whether he might consider running for Maryland attorney general if the incumbent, Democrat Francis B. Burch, is appointed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, as is now widely predicted, Beall said he considers his present job more of a challenge than that of the attorney general, whose office does not prosecute most criminal cases except on appeal.

Beall said he definitely would not challenge Mathias in this year's Senate pri-

mary, noting that Mathias is a close friend and was his sponsor for the prosecutor's post. Beall had been a campaign aide for Mathias.

George Beall is generally considered to be more liberal or moderate in political philosophy than his older brother, Sen. Beall, who generally has voted to support positions of the Nixon Administration. But the younger Beall minimized the differences between the two brothers.

A graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, Princeton University and the University of Virginia Law School, George Beall was a clerk to former Judge Simon Sobeloff of the U.S. Court of Appeals and was an attorney with the prominent Balti-

more law firm of Smith, Somerville and Case before becoming a prosecutor.

Beall has talked to that firm about returning and to other firms he declined to name. He said he also would consider a higher position with the Justice Department in Washington if it were offered.

While Beall weighs his future, he continues the life he was living before the Agnew investigation brought him national attention. He lives with his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Rebecca, in their home in the Orchard section of Baltimore and plays tennis and golf and jogs when he isn't pursuing criminals from his fourth-floor office in the U.S. District Court building here.