

Agnew's Successor in Baltimore Found Guilty

Baltimore

A federal jury convicted Baltimore county executive N. Dale Anderson on 32 counts of conspiracy, extortion and tax evasion yesterday in a further development in the investigation that forced his predecessor, Spiro T. Agnew, to resign the vice presidency.

Anderson, 57, Agnew's successor as county executive and one of Maryland's most powerful Democrats, was convicted of extorting more than \$38,000 in kickbacks from engineers and architects in return for no-bid contracts and of evading more than \$67,000 in federal income taxes.

The grand jury that had indicted Anderson also heard evidence that resulted

in Agnew's resignation as vice president and his no-contest plea to one count of tax evasion.

Defense attorney Norman P. Ramsey argued that the kickback scheme operated during Agnew's Baltimore county administration and that Anderson had tried to stop it.

The prosecution agreed that Anderson, a former Democratic national committeeman, had inherited a system of corruption but charged that he exploited it for his own personal profit.

Anderson, who spent four days on the witness stand in his own defense, repeatedly said, "I never authorized or accepted kickbacks from anyone."

The trial jury deliberated for 8½ hours before convicting Anderson on 27 counts of extortion, four of income tax evasion and one of conspiracy.

Anderson would face a maximum \$320,000 in fines and 580 years in prison if the sentences meted out to him were made consecutive, an unusual practice. He was freed on his personal recognizance and given 20 days to file an appeal.

Anderson, accompanied by his wife and two children, was visibly shaken and blanched when the verdict on the first count was announced.

Following his conviction Anderson said:

"I have authorized Mr. Ramsey to take all steps necessary to file for an appeal.

"I am not guilty."

Prosecution witnesses testified they gave money to William Fornoff, Anderson's former chief administrator. Fornoff, who like the others was given limited immunity, testified he passed it on to his superior.

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