

Agnew Ends
Partnership
With Dilbeck

By Richard M. Cohen
Washington Post Staff Writer

Doermer Vice President Spiro T. Agnew yesterday fired his business partner, Walter J. Dilbeck, calling him a publicity seeker whose "exaggerations and outright misstatements" were de-

signed
to promote himself "at the expense of my integrity."

In a letter to Dilbeck, an Indiana land speculator, Agnew said that instead of the million of dollars in profits Dilbeck had boasted of in interviews, the partnership had yet to collect "its first dollar in profits" and Agnew himself had not been paid his last quarterly \$25,000 fee.

Agnew made copies of the Dilbeck letter public, saying he had no recourse but to terminate the partnership openly because of Dilbeck's attempts to "exploit" him.

In Evansville, Ind., Dilbeck's office released a statement in which the land speculator professed nothing but relief that Agnew had terminated the partnership. Dilbeck said the former Vice President's attempts to do business with Arab governments was becoming an embarrassment to him.

"Mr. Dilbeck states that Agnew's apparent preoccupation with the Arab powers was distasteful and unsatisfactory due to Dilbeck's long-standing association with many Jewish people and interests in this country," the statement said.

Reached later, Dilbeck said he had already paid Agnew \$75,000 and that the last \$25,000 payment was not due until March 15, 1975. He said the \$75,000 had been wired to Agnew's savings account in Washington and that cancelled checks in his possession would

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prove that Agnew received the money.

"He better pay income tax on it, because I'm going to report it," Dilbeck said. "Know what I mean?"

Agnew resigned as Vice President Oct. 10, 1973, after pleading no contest to an income tax evasion charge. At the time, the Justice Department charged that Agnew had taken kickbacks from Maryland businessmen while serving as governor of the state and later as Vice President. Agnew denied the charges. He was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to three years of probation, and later disbarred in Maryland.

Agnew would not comment on his letter to Dilbeck. A secretary at Agnew's Crofton, Md., office, however, confirmed published reports that Agnew had agreed with Dilbeck to serve as a \$100,000-a-year consultant and share one-third of the profits earned by the new venture.

Since signing Agnew to the contract last year, Dilbeck has virtually held open house for the press, trumpeting land deals and coal mining ventures that he said would make the former Vice President a certain millionaire.

Agnew, until yesterday did not refute Dilbeck's claims. A Washington Post story, however, had noted that Dilbeck had once lost his real estate license and The Wall Street Journal only this week reported that many of Dilbeck's previous business ventures had wound up in bankruptcy.

Dilbeck in the interview yesterday rejected Agnew's charge that he was attempting to exploit the relationship for his own profit. He said that Agnew stood to make a fortune from the discovery and operation of a coal mine which has been paying off at \$1 a ton since Nov. 1, 1974.

"I like the man," Dilbeck said. "But exploiting somebody You know when you pick up a guy and give him \$75,000. I don't know whose exploiting who. These are tough times right now."

In his letter, Agnew said that he had earlier told Dilbeck that "building the confidence of foreign investors would require candor, discretion and diligence."

"Now is it virtually impossible for us to be successful because your desire for publicity has violated the confidentiality of many negotiations in progress and shocked our clients. They had no reason to suspect that they would be propelled into the news media

without the slightest regard for accuracy."

Since resigning from office Agnew has founded a firm called Pathlight, which reportedly has tried to act as a middleman between foreign investors and Americans. The former Vice President has been seen in Arab capitals where he was reportedly attempting to interest investment capital in American ventures.

Dilbeck, a World War II

hero, has been well known in the Southern Indiana-Kentucky area for his lavish and controversial ways. He has sent 60 of his friends to Europe and annually sends about 35 family members to Florida for the holidays. He has been successfully sued for collection of bills as small as \$1,740. Some of his ventures, like a global baseball league have lost him anywhere between \$800,000 and \$3 million.