

# U. S. JURY INDICTS EX-AIDE TO AGNEW

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Singer Co. and 3 Others  
Also Face Charges on  
Campaign Violations

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BALTIMORE, March 6—A Federal grand jury here today indicted J. Walter Jones Jr., a former close personal and political associate of Spiro T. Agnew, along with the Singer Company of New York, and three other persons for extortion or violation of the Federal Campaign Finance Law in an alleged secret \$10,000 contribution by Singer to the Nixon-Agnew re-election campaign in 1972.

Mr. Jones, now an Annapolis banker, was a central figure in the rise and fall of Mr. Agnew, a former Governor of Maryland who resigned as Vice President of the United States in October, 1973, in a deal to avoid prosecution for accepting contract kickbacks.

Mr. Jones, 52 years old, had previously been identified in court records here as a collection agent of illegal funds for Mr. Agnew, but he had not been indicted until today.

Mr. Jones's lawyer, Plato Cacheris, reached by telephone in Washington, said that, "We will assert our innocence in court." The lawyer described the indictment of Mr. Jones as "the product of a two-year vendetta against him by the United States Attorney in Baltimore."

The other persons indicted were two former Maryland associates of Mr. Jones, John W. Steffey of Severna Park, Md., and James F. Fansen, a Baltimore lawyer, and Raymond A. Long, a Singer executive of Binghamton, N. Y.

Mr. Fansen, 47, told United States District Judge R. Dorsey Watkins late today that he was giving full cooperation to the Federal prosecutors, offering a plea of nolo contendere (no contest)—which he said would be changed to a plea of guilty if the court declined to accept it—and throwing himself on the mercy of the court.

## Plea Is Declined

Judge Dorsey declined to accept any plea today, putting off a decision on the matter.

Singer, in a statement issued in New York, acknowledged that funds had been "diverted from the company in a disguised fashion for the purpose of making a political contribution" but said no corporate officers or directors had been aware of it. The statement went on:

"The United States Attorney contends that the company is responsible for acts of a non-officer employe which were not authorized by management and which violated company policy. The company intends to resist this effort to impose vicarious criminal liability upon it. It will plead not guilty and seek a prompt trial."

## Charge Against Jones

The grand jury charged that Mr. Jones, as the chairman in 1972 of the Maryland Finance Committee to Re-elect the President [Mr. Nixon], had "procured" the illegal \$10,000 corporate contribution from Singer, through Mr. Long in the company's Silver Spring, Md., office, by "the wrongful use of the fear of financial and economic injury and under color of official right."

The prosecutor's office said that Mr. Jones had "instructed" Mr. Fansen to obtain the illegal contribution from Mr. Long by offering in return "access" and "favorable reception and consideration from the Republican Federal Administration" in obtaining contracts.

The Singer Company's sewing machine business now represents less than one-third of its varied activities, which include defense electronics, aircraft instrumentation, calculators, power tools, housing and air-conditioners.

The indictment charged that Mr. Jones had instructed Mr. Fansen to tell Singer executives that in return for the company's illegal contribution it "could expect and would receive favorable consideration of its business affairs" from Federal Government officials, and that should assistance be needed in obtaining favoritism in Washington "such assistance would be provided by Mr. Jones."

The counts against Mr. Jones were one each of extortion, conspiracy to defraud the United States, soliciting and receiving an illegal corporate campaign contribution, and five others alleging various violations of contribution reporting provisions of the law.

The Singer Company was charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, violations of statutes prohibiting corporate campaign gifts and gifts by Government contractors, and of illegally concealing its contribution. The indictment did not charge that top Singer executives were aware of the illegal campaign gift.

Accused in separate counts of approving and conveying the illegal contribution was Mr. Long, now the president of Singer's Simulation Products Division in Binghamton.

The prosecutor, United States Attorney George Beall, told newsmen tonight that the indictments of the company and of Mr. Long were "important as an indicator that a company will not be insulated from prosecution simply because allegedly guilty employes were below the top management level."