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# Annapolis banker bagman for Agnew

BALTIMORE (AP)—J. Walter Jones, a wealthy Annapolis banker, was named in federal court Friday as a bagman for Spiro T. Agnew during the former vice president's terms as Baltimore County executive and governor of Maryland.

Barnett D. Skolnik, assistant U.S. attorney, identified Jones as a funnel for illicit cash kickbacks to Agnew, his close friend, at the sentencing of John Hocheder Jr., a Towson engineer.

Skolnik told U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Harvey II Hocheder had informed prosecutors that "between 1963 and 1968, he personally made payments in cash to an individual whose name is J. Walter Jones, for Spiro T. Agnew."

Skolnik said Hocheder had provided "detailed documentary evidence to the government." about the Jones-Agnew transactions.

Harvey sentenced Hocheder to two months in jail and 22 months probation, plus a \$2,000 fine.

Hocheder, a partner in the firm of George W. Stephens & Associates, pleaded guilty last June to a charge of preparing a false income tax return.

The government alleged that Hocheder falsified the return as part of a coverup of kickbacks from the Stephens firm to Dale Anderson, Agnew's successor as Baltimore County executive.

Anderson resigned as county

executive shortly after being convicted and sentenced to five years in prison for conspiracy, extortion and tax evasion. He is appealing both the conviction and the sentence.

Agnew, the target for a time last fall of the special federal grand jury probing political corruption in Maryland, resigned the vice presidency and pleaded no contest to a federal tax charge last Oct. 10.

Neither Jones nor Agnew, who operates a private business in Crofton, Md., were available for comment on Skolnik's statements.

Jones is known to be one of at least half a dozen current targets of the grand jury probe. The panel met Friday for the second time in two days but again failed to return any indictments.

Jones has repeatedly denied committing criminal acts in his relationship with Agnew and has specifically denied taking kickbacks from other individuals.

Sources close to the investigation, however, say Joel Kline, an admitted stock manipulator and a key government witness against Anderson, has told prosecutors that he made cash payments to Jones in exchange for favored treatment on development of federally funded housing projects.

According to Skolnik, Hocheder initially lied to prosecutors about his involvement in the kickback schemes when first subpoenaed in January 1973.

The following month, however, other members of the Stephens firm told investigators of generating cash to make payoffs to public figures, Skolnik said.

By August 1973, according to Skolnik, Hocheder had started cooperating with prosecutors and "has been straight with our office since then."

Hocheder had been willing to testify at Anderson's trial, Skolnik said, but was not called by prosecutors because of problems with his credibility. He did not elaborate.