

Agnew bagmen

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BALTIMORE (AP)—Despite the urging of U.S. Atty. George Beall, a three-judge federal court panel sentenced two figures in the scandal involving former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to jail Monday.

Beall, who led the investigation of the former vice president, urged the special three-judge panel to withhold jail terms from Allen I. Green and I.H. "Bud" Hammerman. Beall told the court the two men played an essential part in the gathering of evidence that eventually led to Agnew's resignation and no contest plea to tax charges.

Green, who confessed to giving Agnew kickback payments, was sentenced to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine. Hammerman, Agnew's confessed bagman, was sentenced to an 18-month term and a \$5,000 fine.

Judge Roszel C. Thomsen, chief federal judge, told the men, "we are convinced it would unduly depreciate the seriousness of the offense not to impose a term of confinement.

"We are convinced that a fear of confinement is a deterrent to white

collar crime." He also said imprisoning the men would be a "substantial deterrent to the continuing administration of justice."

Beall told the unprecedented three-judge panel that white collar crime and political corruption, "simply can't be discovered, much less prosecuted, unless participants choose to provide the government with evidence."

However, Judge Thomsen, speaking for the court, said "not every case can be judged by the Nixon pardon or the Agnew case."

Beall urged leniency, saying agreements between prosecutors and potential witnesses are needed in probes of political corruption since those who have first-hand knowledge of the scandal are frequently vulnerable to prosecution.

Hammerman and Green agreed last year to provide evidence against Agnew in return for being charged with lesser crimes and a prosecutor's recommendation against jail terms.

Beall told the court the inducement for the witnesses' cooperation was, "that

sentenced to jail

they would be treated no worse than the man whom they testified against." Agnew was put on probation for three years and fined \$10,000.

Beall also said his office is continuing corruption investigations and that potential witnesses in those cases, "are watching this courtroom today.

"These men have been punished in extraordinary ways and to an extraordinary degree," he said.

Defense attorneys echoed Beall. "This disgrace will live in history as part of the Agnew case," Hammerman's lawyer Sidney Sachs said. "His was a crime of foolishness. He has paid and throughout his life will continue to pay an incalculable cost."

Brendan Sullivan, who represented Green, cited the engineer's emotional and physical anguish and said, "It's not easy to testify against the second highest ranking officer in the country.

"Allen Green was subject to a pre-existing corrupt practice in this state," Sullivan said.

Later he described Green as a victim. "He was a victim. Call him a willing

victim, but a victim."

Before the hearing, the three U.S. District Court judges issued a statement explaining the unprecedented three-judge panel in a sentencing hearing.

"Most of the judges of our court stated that for one reason or another, they felt that, even though they might not be disqualified, they should not participate in those (Hammerman's and Green's cases)," the statement said.

Judge Thomsen and Judges Herbert F. Murray and Joseph H. Young said they were chosen to handle the two cases and to sit as a panel if guilty pleas were offered.

"The reason for this unusual procedure was that these cases are so intimately related to the Agnew case, which was unique in the history of our country."

Officials said no time has yet been set for Hammerman and Green to surrender to federal authorities.

Judge Thomsen did say the court would recommend the men be sent to minimum security federal prisons at Allenwood, Pa. or Danbury, Conn.