

# Campaign donations explained by Agnew

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CROFTON, Md. (AP)—Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned the vice presidency in the midst of a federal investigation of his financial dealings with special interests, says big campaign contributions are often given with an eye on what they will get the donar in return.

"Sometimes this (contributions) did bear on the relationship to the person involved getting work," Agnew said, "because nobody gives these big contributions unless they get one of two things: Access to the principal when they need it or favorable consideration for work they want to get from the county or state."

Agnew made the remarks in an interview with WJZ-TV of Baltimore. It was taped last week and portions were televised on Sunday.

In the interview, Agnew did not elaborate on what he termed favorable consideration. But the former vice president conceded that the use of political gifts to gain leverage in contract awards or other areas is wrong.

"I think I did something wrong because the whole system is wrong," he said. "I agree with those who say this is a corrupt kind of system."

Agnew has steadfastly denied allegations of bribery and extortion contained in a 40-page document filed in federal court here by the Justice Department on Oct. 10, 1973, the day he resigned the vice presidency and pleaded no contest to a tax evasion charge.

The document outlined what prosecutors said was a pattern stretching back to Agnew's years as Baltimore County executive and governor of Maryland, and continuing into his vice presidential years, in which he accepted money from contractors in exchange for favorable consideration on government work.

In the interview, he strongly denied

that he put any campaign contributions to personal use, saying that "everything that was paid as a campaign contribution was used in a political context."

He said his quick change of mind over whether to resign the vice presidency came because "something happened—something very shocking and shaking to me happened."

He declined to elaborate, but has said in other interviews that the story surrounding his resignation will be told in his upcoming memoirs.

On the subject of this year's presidential election, Agnew said he endorses President Ford but feels more of a personal kinship with Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter.

"Mr. Ford's style is a style of consensus, a merlioration, compromise," Agnew said. "My style is admittedly more abrasive. I think in some ways Mr. Carter's style is more closely akin to my style than Mr. Ford's is."

Agnew, who has formed a consulting business heavily involved with Arab investments, also said he has been stung by criticism from Jewish leaders of his recent anti-Israel statements and denied that he is anti-Semitic.

At the same time, however, he again blasted Israel, saying it is not a democracy but rather "a government based on a Tamudic concept."

"I do feel that Israel is a nation and not a religion and not a race, and as an American I have a right to make criticisms of my country's posture vis-a-vis that nation," he said.

## FARM WAGES

Farm wages, with room and board, have ranged from 65-75 cents a day in the 1890s to more than \$10 in 1969 and 1970, according to a table in the Census Bureau's "Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970."