

Banker Indicted on Four Counts In Maryland 'Salute' to Agnew

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ANNAPOLIS, Md., June 19 —A four-count indictment charging violations of state election laws was served today on Blagden H. Wharton, treasurer of a Salute to Ted Agnew fundraising committee.

The charges are all related to Mr. Wharton's admitted falsification of campaign contribution reports for the event, held during the Presidential campaign last year.

The falsification became known as a result of testimony during the Senate Watergate hearings.

Mr. Wharton and Alexander M. Lankler, chairman of the state Republican party acknowledged that they had listed a \$49,500 loan from President Nixon's re-election committee as 32 nonexistent contributions.

The false listing of the source of the money was designed to create an inflated impression of strong financial backing for the event honoring the Vice President at the Lyric Theater in Baltimore in May, 1972, they said.

Two Perjury Charges

Two of the charges against Mr. Wharton, a vice president of the Maryland National Bank, are forms of perjury: the filing of a false statement with State Election Board on June 14, 1972, and the filing of a contradictory statement on May 29, 1973.

The second of the two reports, both of which were filed under oath, eliminated the bogus contributions and correctly listed the loan. It was filed after it became known that disbursements from the national committee would be documented during the Watergate hearings.

The third count charges that Mr. Wharton failed to name the actual source of funds. The final charge is that Mr. Wharton failed to report a gift of about \$350 worth of hors d'oeuvres from a Baltimore caterer for a reception held by the salute committee.

The indictments were handed down by the Anne Arundel County jury last week, but the identity of the defendant and the specific charges were kept secret until Mr. Wharton could return from his vacation to accept service at the courthouse here. Mr. Wharton was released on his own recognizance.

Ouster Move Fails

In a related development, Mr. Lankler last night survived an attempt by a conservative wing of the Republican State Central Committee to oust him from his chairmanship.

The executive committee of the central committee voted 8 to 7 to reject a motion calling for Mr. Lankler's resignation. Mr. Lankler cast his own vote in support of himself to break a tie.

Speaking to a meeting of the central committee at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore, Mr. Lankler said, "Watergate has totally revolutionized attitudes toward political financing methods deemed by one and all to be appropriate a year ago. What was an acceptable idea on June 14, 1972, is now unacceptable."

Parliamentary blunders by Mr. Lankler's critics, who consider him to be part of the state's "liberal establishment," prevented efforts to force a full discussion of the falsification during the meeting.