

Phantom Contributor List Included Thomas

Frank 6-7-73

State Senator Edward P. Thomas of Frederick is one of 31 individuals who were falsely listed as donors to a 1972 fund raiser honoring Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew, the Associated Press reported Wednesday night.

AP reported that organizers of the "Salute to Ted Agnew Night Committee" hid for nearly a year that the 49,900 contributions to the fundraiser came from the National Committee to Re-Elect the President and not from the 31 individuals.

Thomas said he had not been contacted about his alleged \$2,500 contribution to the Agnew fund raiser, AP reported. Thomas was reported out of town Wednesday night and could not be reached for additional comment. Thomas served as Chairman of the Maryland Committee to Re-elect the President last year.

AP said that the chairman of

Maryland's Republican Party, Alexander M. Lankler Jr., admitted that the role of the National Committee was hidden to make it appear the Agnew affair had been more successful than it was in attracting donations from individuals.

"This was just a public relations thing," he said. "It was political puffery to make it (the affair) look as good as possible."

Lankler said that the actual source of the money would not have been disclosed at all had it not been for the Watergate and other scandals.

"There is an entirely different kind of political climate today than a year ago," Lankler said, who served on the committee which organized the tribute to Agnew held on May 19, 1972, at Baltimore's Lyric Theater.

It was not until last Friday that

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the organizers of the fund raiser amended their official state financial report, deleting the names of the 31 persons and substituting the committee to re-elect the president as the source of \$49,900.

Records filed with the Maryland Election Law administrator's office under a state campaign disclosure statute report that the Agnew affair took in \$172,195.

The reports were certified as "complete and accurate" by B. H. Wharton, the treasurer for the affair. Wharton was not immediately available for comment.

The report, filed June 15, 1972, listed receipts of \$172,195, including \$49,900 from 31 persons in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Last Friday, an amended report was filed by the Agnew affair committee deleting the names of the 31 persons and substituting the Committee to Re-elect the President as the source of the funds.

Lankler said that "the committee did assign credit for contributions to various people who in fact did not make contributions."

He said that he personally contacted some of the individuals and obtained their permission to be listed as donors to the affair. He did not identify which persons these were.