

# Probe of Agnew Files Starts Today

Baltimore

Federal agents are scheduled today to begin digging into the records of Vice President Spiro Agnew's two years as Maryland governor, with testimony expected to be presented to a special grand jury in Baltimore on Wednesday.

U.S. Attorney George Beall has not said what part Agnew's term as governor plays in the investigation he is making to determine if the vice president has been involved in bribery, extortion or fraud.

But the Maryland state archivist, Dr. Morris Radoff, has been subpoenaed to testify Wednesday to identify documents from the state records dealing with Agnew and a former Agnew assistant, Jerome B. Wolff.

The vice president, who has been golfing in California for the past four days, has said he is innocent of any improprieties and does not expect to be indicted.

## JURY

Although the special grand jury will not begin taking testimony about Agnew's term as governor until Wednesday, the jury will hear witnesses today as it continues to inquire into ac-

tivities of other Maryland officeholders.

In the new phase of the far-reaching investigation, Beall appeared to be concentrating on highway construction and engineering contracts.

Before subpoenaing the 130 boxes of papers and documents from Agnew's term as governor, Beall had seized contract records from the Maryland Department of Transportation.

While Agnew was governor of Maryland, Wolff was head of the state road department.

## RECORDS

Radoff said that the records from the Agnew administration had been closed by law and that no one had checked into them.

Under Maryland law, the private records of a governor's administration are closed to the public for 30 years or until the governor has died.

However, courts can seize the records and the former governor involved can authorize others to inspect the documents.

The investigation of Agnew also includes the financing of his 1962 campaign for

Baltimore county executive, his 1966 campaign for governor, a testimonial dinner to him in 1972, and a special fund set up for him while he was governor.

The records from the 1966 campaign for governor and for the 1972 testimonial dinner have already been delivered to the government.

But the records from the 1962 campaign apparently

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were routinely destroyed several years ago and are not available.

Officials of the state elections board said no records from the "Executive Assembly" — the name given to Agnew's special fund — were ever filed with the state.

The Executive Assembly was a group of wealthy Republicans and Democrats who paid \$1000 each to defray the personal "political" expenses of Agnew.

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