

By Bill Richards

ANNAPOLIS, June 19 -Maryland banker Blagden H. (Buddy) Wharton was formally Wolf served with four grand jury indictments today charging him with perjury and election fraud in connection with a fraudulent contributors' list he signed last year for a state COP fund reison for Vice Pros GOP fund-raiser for Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

At the same time, Prosecu-tor Martin Wolff declared there is "a distinct possibility" he will seek the indictment of other Republicans who may have known of the scheme to hide \$50,000 of Nixon re-election money used to swell the reported gate of the Agnew event.

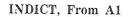
The charges against Wharton technically are misdemeanors under Maryland law, but two of the four charges carry maximum penalties upon con-

Washington Post Staff Writer -, viction of 10 years apiece in

> Wolff would not reveal which members of the Salute to Ted Agnew Night event had been questioned or what in-formation had been obtained by the grand jury during its investigation.

> Earlier this month Alexander Lankler, Maryland state GOP chairman, said the list of bogus contributors had been put together by himself and other state Republicans in order to cover up a \$50,000 loan to the committee from the National Committee to Re-elect the President.

The loan, Lankler said, was used to inflate the proceeds from the event and make it look like a booming success. At that time, he said, other See INDICT, A19, Col. 1



nembers of the 17-man com-

Wharton, a 52-year-old vice Board of Elections. president of the Maryland Naional Bank, was the commit-ee's treasurer and signed ee's treasurer and signed ampaign statements filed vith federal and state election officials that included the officials that included the list f non-existent donors.

The four-count indictment y the Anne Arundel County the indictment. lay accuses Wharton of filing false affidavit regarding fiancing of the affair; unlawully reporting details of the dictment first from the court. inancial transaction; failing o identify the source of the unds and failing to report the eccipt of "valuable things" which were listed as cold hors l'ouevres, bar mixes, a fresh ruit display and gratuities.

The first two charges, which oth involve perjury, upon onviction carry maximum 10 ear sentences while the third ind fourth charge, both violaions of the state election law, arry a maximum penalty of me year in jail and \$1,000 fine pon conviction.

Wharton was released in a :1,000 personal recognizance ond and is slated for arraignnent Monday in Anne Arunel Circuit Court. He remained silent and im-

assive as he accepted the inlictment papers from deputy anne Arundel County Sheriff Ierel Chaney and declined to nswer questions from news-nen gathered at the county ourthouse

The failure of the state's atorney's office to reveal the same of the person indicted y the grand jury last week ad generated an air of mysery about today's presenta-

tion of the indictment papers. Anne Arundel officials launched the investigation benittee were aware of the ever-up and the use of the alse contributors' list. the county seat with the State

Wolff said, however, that the lag in identifying the sub-ject of the indictments was standard procedure for his office. If the person is not al-ready in jail, he said, he is sent a post card and requested to appear within nine days of

Wolff said, by Circuit Judge Matthew S. Evans to allow persons to learn of their in-

The perjury charges against Wharton stem from the filing by the Agnew fund-raiser com-mittee of two conflicting reports with state election officials.

The first report, filed under Wharton's name on June 14, 1972, showed that \$50,000 in receipts had come from ticket sales to 31 individuals. A sec-ond report, filed May 29 of this year, lists the National Fi-

source of the money and de- fund. letes any mention of the 31 donors.

Lankler, who was not involved in signing either report, has attributed the \$50,000 loan to "political puffery" and said that the change in the general political climate brought on by the Watergate scandal has made "what was an acceptable idea on June 14, 1972, now . . unacceptable."

Under fire for his part in the affair, Lankler beat off an attempt Monday by some state Republicans to oust him.

Listed among the 17 committee members are several high-ranking banking officials and wealthy Maryland stock-brokers as well as some of the most prolific fund raisers in the state COP in the state GOP.

The \$50,000 was a commitment from Nixon campaign officials to Lankler after he solicited \$150,000 for the na-tional campaign from Flornez R. Ourisman, a wealthy former Maryland auto dealer.

The money-in \$100 billswent from the National Fi-nance Committee to Reelect the President to Lankler and then into the Agnew committee's account in the Maryland National Bank. The loan was returned to the Nixon cam-paign following the fund-raising event.

Lankler, who has not been called to testify before the grand jury, has said that the Agnew night committee de-cided to revise its reports of the source of the \$50,000 after U.S. Rep. William O. Mills (R.-Md.), committed suicide May 24. Mills shot himself after it was disclosed he had received an unreported \$25,000 campaign contribution in 1971

nance Committee as the actual] from the Nixon re - election

Wolff said today that his office had "other information" in addition to that which led to Wharton's indictment and that some of this information involved unspecified committee members.

Wharton indictments, The he said, were rushed because of a one-year statute of limitations on misdemeanor election law violations.

"We were working under a deadline in Wharton's case," he said, "Now we're going to take a little more time and take a careful look at all the persons involved."

The grand jury, Wolff said,

The reports from the Agnew Salute committee also are be-ing investigated by the federal General Accounting Office, the congressional investigatory agency, to determine if they conf election laws. conform to federal



BLAGDEN H. WHARTON ... free on bond