

Agnew Says He'll Show His Records

Washington

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said yesterday he would make his personal records available to federal prosecutors probing political corruption in Maryland. He also said he was agreeable to a personal interview.

In a letter to U.S. Attorney George Beall in Baltimore, the Vice President said he would have the records available immediately for inspection and copying at his office in the Executive Office Building.

However, Agnew made clear that he was granting access only to his personal financial and income tax records sought by the prosecutor's office and not the official records of the Vice President.

"You understand that, by making these records available to you, I do not acknowledge that you or any grand jury have any right to records of the Vice President," Agnew declared.

PROPRIETY

"Nor do I acknowledge the propriety of any grand jury investigation of possible wrongdoing on the part of the Vice President so long as he occupies that office," he said. "These are difficult constitutional questions which need not at this moment be confronted."

Agnew also said he would cooperate fully with the prosecutors and would be happy to meet with them "for a personal interview so that I may answer any questions you may have."

Beall had asked Agnew to turn over voluntarily his financial and tax records dating back to 1967 for examination in connection with a federal grand jury investigation of possible violations of tax, bribery, extortion and conspiracy laws.

Three of Agnew's lawyers met with Beall in his Balti-

more office for 55 minutes during the afternoon. They were Jay H. Topkis, Martin London and Judah Best.

When they emerged they said only that they had come to deliver Agnew's letter.

Beall also refused to comment.

ALLEGATIONS

Meanwhile, President Nixon said through a spokesman that he wanted the federal investigators to take "all appropriate steps" in probing allegations that Agnew may have been involved in the alleged bribery and

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kickback scandal.

Beall had asked for the records by last Thursday but reportedly extended the deadline at least a week while the Vice President's lawyers pondered the constitutional questions that might be involved.

The President has cited the separation of powers doctrine in refusing to hand over tape recordings of White House conversations to special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox.

Agnew's letter made the distinction between his personal records and the records of the vice president.

AVAILABLE

In responding to Beall's invitation for the personal documents, Agnew said they are available in his office and that "I am prepared to do so (make them available) immediately."

The vice president said his staff has been instructed to give Beall and his assistants fullest cooperation and if necessary to make copies of any of the records.

He said these copies can be compared with the originals to verify their accuracy, indicating that Agnew is not going to allow the documents to be removed from his office.

"As I advised many months ago, I wish in no way to impede your investigation," the vice president said. "I have done nothing wrong. I have nothing to hide. And I have no desire save that justice be done speedily and efficiently. Accordingly, the records you request are now available to you."

REPORT

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren said Mr. Nixon was not intervening in the investigation and had not sought a report on it from the Justice Department, and he denied reports that Mr. Nixon and

Agnew had discussed the Vice President's resignation.

Those stories, as well as reports that Mr. Nixon opposes Agnew's turning his personal records over to the grand jury, "are totally wrong," Warren insisted.

Agnew worked in his office yesterday but was not available for comment.

Although Beall would not discuss any aspects of his grand jury probe, one of the principals in it, Jerome B. Wolff, was seen going into Beall's office with two attorneys yesterday.

CONTRACTORS

Wolff, president of Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc. and Lester Matz, a partner in Matz, Childs and Associates, are among four Baltimore county contractors reported to have told federal prosecutors that they made cash payments to Agnew in hopes of getting favored treatment in the awarding of government consulting contracts.

Also in Beall's office were several of the U.S. attorney's agents who have been combing 130 boxes of documents in the Maryland Hall of Records. The boxes contain records and documents pertaining to Agnew's two years as governor from 1967 to 1968.

Beall had subpoenaed those documents as well as campaign finance records and documents from both the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

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