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**Agnew Offers to Answer  
Any Questions in Inquiry**

**Will Open His Records to U.S. Attorney  
Checking Maryland Kickback Charges  
—but He Avoids Constitutional Issue**

By ANTHONY RIPLEY  
Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, Aug. 14—Vice President Agnew offered today to answer questions personally and open his records to the United States Attorney here who is investigating allegations of extortion, bribery, tax fraud and conspiracy that allegedly took place when Mr. Agnew was Governor of Maryland.

"I have done nothing wrong, I have nothing to hide. And I have no desire save that justice be done speedily and efficient-

*Letter from Vice President is printed on Page 16.*

ly," Mr. Agnew said in a letter hand-delivered late today to George Beall, the United States Attorney.

On Aug. 1, Mr. Beall had written the Vice President's lawyer, Judah Best, asking for personal financial records, and stating that Mr. Agnew was under investigation.

In his reply today, Mr. Agnew said the records had been assembled and that "you and any of your assistants may inspect them there [at his office] at any time you may desire."

He stressed that by making the records available "I do not acknowledge that you or any grand jury have any right to the records of the Vice President. 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."

**Difficult Questions**

"These are difficult constitutional questions which need not at this moment be confronted," he wrote.

But Mr. Agnew went one step beyond Mr. Beall's request by offering to submit to questions personally. Mr. Beall had requested bank statements, check stubs, canceled checks, check vouchers, check books, and deposit tickets and savings account books along with income tax returns.

The Vice President said his

"desire to cooperate" in the investigation did not stop with only turning over records.

"I am eager to be of any help I can," he wrote. "Specifically, should you wish, I shall be glad to meet with you and your colleagues for a personal interview so that I may answer any questions you may have."

The letter was delivered by

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Mr. Best and two other lawyers representing the Vice President, Jay H. Topkiss and Martin London. They arrived at Mr. Beall's office at 4:20 P.M. and left 50 minutes later, stopping only to distribute copies of Mr. Agnew's letter to the press without comment.

Mr. Beall, asked if the Vice President's action fully met his request of Aug. 1, refused to comment.

**'Lies' Denounced**

On Aug. 8 the Vice President held a nationally televised news conference in which he denounced as "damned lies" reports that he had taken kickbacks from government contractors in Maryland.

At that time and in reports from his office since then, he indicated he would turn over the documents when he felt it was appropriate.

His action today dodged the constitutional question of the separation of powers that President Nixon has cited in his refusal to turn over tape recordings of conversations held in the Presidential office to the special Watergate prosecution force and to the Senate Watergate committee.

Mr. Beall's letter to Mr. Best asked for records covering the period from Jan. 1, 1967, to the present. It is understood that Mr. Agnew is prepared to meet that request in full, sources close to the Vice President said today.

**Wolff at Office**

Those same sources said the Vice President did not in any way wish to cut across the lines laid down by President Nixon in refusing to turn over the tapes.

Mr. Agnew leaves tomorrow morning for the dedication of

the Chatfield Dam in the Denver suburb of Littleton. Questioning of him presumably would be delayed until his return.

However, in his letter to Mr.

Beall, the Vice President said the records were available "now" and could be inspected "at any time you may desire."

One of the central figures in the investigation was also at Mr. Beall's office today. Jerome B. Wolff, a former staff member for the Vice President and, earlier, Maryland's State Roads Commissioner under Mr. Agnew, went to the United States Attorney's office on the fourth floor of the post office building here at 9:45 A.M.

Mr. Wolff and his lawyer, Arnold M. Weiner, were seen entering the office by reporters. They refused to comment. Mr. Beall refused even acknowledgement that they were there.

At 11:15 A.M. Mr. Beall met with reporters outside his of-

fice door. He refused repeatedly to comment on any aspect of the investigation.

Asked if there had been inaccuracies in published reports about the investigation, he replied:

"We're not entitled to say anything about the investigation. We're in the frustrating position of being muzzled. It is not my choice. It's the court rules. We can say nothing."

Mr. Wolff and Mr. Weiner were joined later in the morning by another lawyer from Mr. Weiner's office, M. Albert Figinski.

It is believed that the three men left the office as Mr. Beall was talking to reporters.

During the time they were meeting, a group of five men,

apparently Internal Revenue Service Agents, were admitted to the office. One of the men was seen yesterday at the state archives in Annapolis going over the records of Mr. Agnew's term as Governor.

Mr. Wolff is reported to have appeared on three occasions before the grand jury that has been investigating corruption charges in Maryland since January 8.

Mr. Wolff is president of Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc., a subsidiary of the J. E. Greiner Company. Both companies are under investigation.

Federal investigators are investigating a pattern of kickbacks to county and state officials involving chiefly the work of consulting engineers

on county and state construction projects.

No one has been indicted as yet, though one man has been identified in court records as a "conduit" for payoffs between contractors doing business with the county and state and an unnamed official of Baltimore County. He is William E. Fornoff, a former administrative assistant for Baltimore County Executive Dale

Anderson. He pleaded guilty to an income tax charge.

Mr. Anderson, at his regular news conference today, conceded that he received political contributions in cash that had been collected by Mr. Fornoff and another aide, Donald B. Sheeley, during his 1966 and 1970 campaigns.

Mr. Anderson succeeded Mr. Agnew as chief executive officer for Baltimore County 1969 when Mr. Agnew became Vice President.

Mr. Anderson said today that to the best of his knowledge, he had reported the contributions involved. The records of those campaigns were routinely destroyed by the county clerk and election board. He repeated his denials of any wrongdoing.

The election records in Baltimore County are kept for three years.

"I know I'm an honest man," Mr. Anderson said.

**TEXT OF AGNEW LETTER**

Dear Mr. Beall:

In your letter of August 1st, you request that I make certain of my personal records available to you. I am prepared to do so immediately.

The records you request have been assembled and are at my offices. You and any of your assistants may inspect them there at any time you

may desire. My staff have been instructed to give you the fullest cooperation. Should you wish, they will prepare copies for you of any of the records. And you may, of course, compare the copies with the originals to verify their accuracy.

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. 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. These are difficult constitutional questions which need not at this moment be confronted.

As I advised you many months ago, I wish in no way to impede your investigation. 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.

My desire to cooperate in your investigation does not stop here. I am eager to be of any help I can. Specifically, should you wish, I shall be glad to meet with you and your colleagues for a personal interview so that I may answer any questions you may have.

Very Truly Yours  
S/SPIRO T. AGNEW