

Agnew Case Is Outlined By Probers

Washington

Attorney General Elliot Richardson met with Vice President Spiro Agnew early this month and outlined the substance of the evidence gathered by federal prosecutors in Baltimore against Agnew.

The New York Times has learned that the key elements of the case presented to Agnew were the following:

- More than 20 Maryland businessmen told prosecutors that they had given cash payments to Agnew associates in return for state and government contracts and that they believed some of the money was being funneled to Agnew.

- At least three of the Agnew associates the businessmen named were said to have told the prosecutors that they turned over some of the payments to Agnew. The three are Lester Matz and Jerome B. Wolff, engineering consultants in Baltimore, and Allen I. Green, once one of Agnew's closest personal friends.

- Matz told prosecutors that he made one payment of \$2500 to Agnew in the summer of 1971 in return for his help in getting someone a job in the General Services Administration.

Matz said that he turned over the money to Agnew in the presence of J. Walter Jones, a Maryland banker and political supporter of Agnew. But Jones has publicly denied participating in kickbacks or witnessing any being made.

STOPPED

Some time before they began to talk to the prosecutors, Matz and Wolff went to George White, Agnew's long-time personal attorney, and told him that if the federal investigation in Baltimore was not stopped it was going to involve the Vice President because they would tell what they knew, the sources said.

White denied during a telephone interview last night that Matz and Wolff had approached him about the investigation.

A spokesman for the Justice Department confirmed last night that Richardson had met with Agnew about the case. He said the meeting was held on August 6 to supplement the information

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contained in the letter received the previous week by the vice president from George Beall, the U.S. attorney in Baltimore, which informed Agnew that he was under investigation.

While none of the former aides who said that they had separately given kickbacks to Agnew have been corroborated by other witnesses sources said that the cumulative evidence collected thus far is enough for the prosecutors to seek an indictment against Agnew and that they intend to do so.

PAYMENTS

The three former Agnew associates have emphasized that they made cash payments to Agnew both when he was governor of Maryland and when he was vice president.

Green has told the prosecutors that he gave kickbacks to Agnew five times

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a year until 1969 and slightly less often since he became vice president.

Green was said to be the strongest witness against Agnew thus far because of his reputation and the fact that he was one of Agnew's closest personal friends.

Green is president of Green Associates Inc., an engineering concern based in Towson, Md. One of the concern's seven vice presidents is Richard Beall, a brother of George Beall, the U.S. attorney for Maryland who is heading the investigation.

CONSULTANTS

Matz is a partner in the Baltimore engineering consultants firm of Matz, Childs and Associates, and Wolff is president of Greiner Envi-

ronmental Systems Inc., a subsidiary of the J. E. Greiner Co., another engineering consultants firm. Both the Matz and the Wolff concerns won numerous contracts with the state while Agnew was governor.

Other former associates of Agnew who have been ques-

tioned by the prosecutors in the case include I. H. Hammerman, a Baltimore investment broker. It is not known what position he has taken about cooperating in the investigation. Hammerman was one of Agnew's closest advisers on financial matters when Agnew was governor, along with Wolff and Jones.

The specific statutes on which the prosecutors have based their investigation are bribery, conspiracy, tax evasion and violation of the Bobbs Act, which deals with extortion.

Agnew denounced as "damned lies" reports that he took kickbacks, during a televised press conference on August 8, the day after news broke of the investigation involving him.

He said then that he had no expectation of being indicted and had no intention of resigning from office. He said rumors that he had done anything illegal as governor of Maryland or as vice president were "false, scurrilous and malicious."

New York Times