

RICHARDSON AIDE AND MATZ CONFER

Figure in Agnew Inquiry Is
Interviewed in Baltimore

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Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, Aug. 16 —

Lester Matz, a key witness who has been given partial immunity by Federal investigators looking into alleged kickbacks from contractors to Vice President Agnew, met here today with Henry E. Petersen, Assistant United States Attorney General, in the offices of United States Attorney George Beall.

Mr. Petersen arrived at the offices in the United States District Court building early this morning and left in the early afternoon. The purpose of the meeting was unknown. Mr. Petersen, who is in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, also met with Federal investigators yesterday.

The New York Times reported yesterday that sources had said that Mr. Matz had told prosecutors that he made one payment to Vice President Agnew of \$2,500 in the summer of 1971 in return for Mr. Agnew's help in getting someone a job in the General Services Administration.

Meanwhile, Federal investigators widened their inquiry today by subpoenaing the records on consulting and architectural work performed in Anne Arundel County, a suburb of Baltimore that encompasses Annapolis, the state capital.

The subpoena covers records from 1967 through 1972 during the administration of County Executive Joseph W. Alton Jr., who in a news conference today said that he had not been involved in any wrongdoing and that the subpoena "doesn't indicate that there are any charges or accusations against me personally."

Concern Employs Son

Mr. Alton's son, Joseph W. Alton 3d, is the director of personnel at Green Associates, Inc., an engineering concern based in Towson, Md., and that received large consulting contracts from the city, Baltimore County and the state.

The concern is headed by Allen I. Green, who, sources have said, is one of the strongest witnesses against Mr. Agnew. Mr. Alton, a Republican, said today that he asked Mr. Green to give his son a job in 1970 "to keep him out of politics."

Among the records subpoenaed were those of C. D. Messick and Associates, one of the largest contributors to Mr. Alton's campaigns.

Mr. Matz, who has been a long-time contributor and fund raiser for Mr. Agnew's political campaigns, heads Matz, Childs and Associates, one of the largest consulting concerns in Maryland.

He arrived with his lawyers, Arnold H. Weiner and Joseph H.H. Kaplan, and with Mr. Petersen and his special assistant, Philip White.

Mr. Beall came out for a short talk with newsmen, but he refused to say what had been discussed at the meeting. Mr. Matz has reportedly been plea bargaining with the Federal investigators in return for his testimony.

Given Use Immunity

He has been given at least use immunity, under which he can be compelled to testify or face contempt, but cannot be indicted on evidence he gives to the grand jury unless it is independently obtained by prosecutors.

Mr. Matz, who lives in a suburb of Baltimore, formed his company in 1955 in Baltimore County and received consulting contracts when Mr. Agnew was County Executive there from 1962 to 1966.

Mr. Beall would not say if there would be any indictments soon and brushed aside further questions by saying, "I know where we are; I don't know where we're going."

The special grand jury that has been hearing testimony in the case met for two hours today and adjourned.

Jack W. Hushen, spokesman for the Justice Department, said that the meeting between Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Vice President Agnew on Aug. 6, in which the investigation of the Vice President was discussed had been proper.

"It is not unusual for a Department of Justice attorney or investigator to discuss allegations of criminal conduct with potential defendants or their attorneys at some point in an investigation," he said.

Gov. Marvin Mandel of Maryland, in another news conference today, again denied that anyone in his administration was under investigation.

Recalling