

# U.S. Aides Get Agnew Records

## Baltimore

Federal investigators responded yesterday to Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's offer of cooperation and picked up copies of his personal financial records for examination in a probe of alleged political corruption.

U.S. Attorney George Beall told newsmen that copies of the records were picked up at Agnew's office in Washington but that the vice president was not interviewed.

Last Tuesday, in a letter to Beall, Agnew said he would turn over his personal papers and would make himself available for an interview. But he stressed he was acting as Spiro Agnew, citizen, and not as the vice president.

## RECORDS

"I do not acknowledge that you or any grand jury have any right to records of the vice president," Agnew said. "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."

Agnew called those constitutional questions to be confronted at some future time. The vice president also has denied all allegations against him.

Beall, who broke his normal string of "no comment" answers to newsmen's questions, declined to discuss the progress of the case but said it was proceeding as quickly as the prosecutors could go.

In one move to speed up the inquiry, Beall said the grand jury would begin meeting more than once a week to take testimony from witnesses. Beall also said he would ask for a three-month extension in the term of the grand jury.

Beall also acknowledged that he has talked with Henry E. Petersen, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's criminal division. Beall said Petersen was being kept apprised of all developments in the investigation.

## LAWYER

Beall notified Agnew through Agnew's attorney early this month that the vice president was under investigation for possible violations of tax, extortion, bribery and conspiracy laws. Beall and his staff are probing alleged kickbacks and extortion involving politicians and contractors in Baltimore county and the state of Maryland.

Meanwhile, sources close to the investigation contradicted Justice Department officials who said Thursday that there was nothing unusual in a briefing given Agnew by Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson covering the allegations against the vice president.

The Justice Department officials claimed that briefings are occasionally given potential defendants in federal investigations and that the only reason the attorney general gave this briefing was because of the high office of the potential defendant.

Another source disputed that, saying such briefings are almost unheard of and speculating that Agnew got one only because he is vice president.

In another development, sources close to the investigation said that a Maryland contractor who has been a close friend of Agnew's is becoming the center of the

probe and may be granted immunity to testify.

The contractor, Allen I. Green, is president of Green Associates, Inc., of Towson, Md. The company employs Beall's brother and the son of a politician from whom county contracting records have been subpoenaed.

Beall's brother, Richard, is one of seven vice presidents of Green Associates.

Joseph W. Alton III, who describes himself as the personnel director of the firm, is the son of Joseph W. Alton, county executive of nearby Anne Arundel county. Beall has subpoenaed all Anne Arundel county contracting records from 1967 to 1972 for examination in his investigation.

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