

# Agnew Seeks List of Contracts

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Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has asked Maryland officials to compile a list of the consulting engineering and architectural contracts awarded by the state between 1962 and 1972, Gov. Marvin Mandel's office said yesterday.

The request was made last week to George R. Lewis, secretary of the State General Services Department, by Arthur Sohmer, the Vice President's chief of staff. Sohmer also asked Mandel to "speed up" the compilation of the list, according to Frank A. DeFilippo, the governor's press secretary.

Mandel complied with the request, although Lewis said yesterday that it may still take several weeks to gather the information sought by Agnew.

Agnew's request was clearly linked to the federal investigation of his affairs, although it could not be learned immediately what the Vice President intended to do with the list. The period of time covered by the request included Agnew's entire term as governor of Maryland from 1967 to January, 1969, as well as the 1962-1967 administration of former Gov. J. Millard Tawes and all but the last

7½ months of the Mandel administration.

The Vice President was informed Aug. 2 by George Beall, the U.S. attorney for Maryland, that he is under investigation for possible violation of extortion, bribery, conspiracy and tax laws. The case, according to sources familiar with the investigation, involves allegations that engineering, architectural and contracting firms paid off politicians in Baltimore County, at the state level and, in at least one instance, for a favor from Agnew after he became Vice President.

Agnew, who has denied

any wrongdoing, was county executive of Baltimore County from 1963 to 1967.

The Maryland General Services Department maintains records on all architectural and engineering contracts awarded by the state except contracts involving work on highways and other transportation facilities. The highway records are kept at the State Department of Transportation and already have been subpoenaed by prosecutors from Beall's office.

Architectural and engineering contracts, unlike construction contracts, are

## Awarded by State

not awarded on the basis of competitive bids but through negotiations between government officials and firms seeking to do work for a government agency. The federal investigation initially centered on the award of such contracts during the administration of Baltimore County's current county executive, Democrat Dale Anderson.

Two of the central figures in the probe, Jerome B. Wolff and Lester Matz, are consulting engineers and longtime Agnew associates. Both have been given limited immunity from prose-

cution in return for their cooperation with the investigation, according to sources close to the probe. Matz and a number of other Maryland businessmen reportedly have told the prosecutors that they personally have turned over money to Agnew in return for work.

Some state employees worked last weekend compiling the list for Agnew. When completed, the list will show which firms were awarded contracts and for what jobs but not how much money was involved in each contract, according to state officials.

In Baltimore, meanwhile, U.S. Attorney Beall said yesterday that no decision has been made on Agnew's offer to submit to a personal interview by the prosecutors in the case. The Vice President made the offer last week in a letter to Beall in which he also agreed to turn over copies of his personal financial records to the prosecutors.

"The (Agnew) letter raises the suggestion that such a meeting would be desirable from his standpoint," Beall said. "I can't say if the government sees it as desirable, things have to be thought through."