

Indictment Names Agnew Committee

Annapolis, Md.

A committee that sponsored a 1972 dinner for Vice President Spiro T. Agnew was named yesterday in an indictment that charges a conspiracy to file false financial reports.

Seven members of the committee, including a close friend of the vice president, were specifically cited but not charged in the indictment, which was handed down Tuesday by the Anne Arundel county grand jury but kept secret for 24 hours.

States Attorney Warren Duckett said the seven persons were alleged to be more culpable than other members of the committee, but that none would be considered defendants. "At most, they would be considered alleged co-conspirators," he said.

The indictment accused the committee of four counts of conspiracy to conceal the fact that a \$50,000 loan used as seed money for a "Salute to Ted Agnew Night" in Baltimore last year was from the Committee to Re-elect the President. The money was listed with the state elections board as donations by individuals.

The seven members mentioned in the indictment were J. Walter Jones, a banker, land developer and one of Agnew's best friends and fund raisers; state GOP chairman Alexander Lankler, who admitted the false report earlier this summer and said it was done to make the affair appear more of a popular success; Mrs. Charles S. Brésier, whose husband ran for state comptroller on the Agnew-for-governor ticket in 1966; a prominent real estate man, John Steffey; Maryland National Bank vice president B. H. Wharton, indicted previously by the same grand jury in the same case; Mrs. Harvey Meyerhoff, chairman of the committee and

wife of a Baltimore area developer; and the Rev. Roy Pfautch of St. Louis, a consultant hired by the committee to raise funds for the party.

Duckett denied newsmen's suggestions that, for political reasons, he decided the committee and not its members should be charged.

He said any conspiracy was arrived at "in a committee atmosphere." He said he recommended to the jury that it indict the committee "rather than say this person was more guilty than the others."

However, he said fair play dictated that the seven members be mentioned and the other eight ignored, "if for no other reason than to take away from the members who were not involved."

He said he is satisfied that the vice president was not personally involved in the false reporting.

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