

Maryland Kickback Indictment

Baltimore

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's successor as the chief elected official of Baltimore county was charged in a federal indictment yesterday with extorting \$46,420 from engineers and architects doing business with the suburban county.

Dale Anderson as Baltimore county executive, is one of Maryland's most powerful Democrats. He is the sole defendant named in a 39-count indictment returned by the special grand jury that is probing alleged political corruption in the award of consulting contracts.

The jury has been investigating the affairs of Baltimore county since January and now is expected to turn its attention to contracts

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awarded during Agnew's tenure as county executive from 1962 to 1966, as Maryland governor from 1967 to 1969 and since he has become vice president.

Anderson, 56, was accused of conspiring with his former chief administrative officer, William E. Fornoff, to extort 31 bribe payments totaling \$46,420, between November 1968 and June 1972, from eight engineering and architectural firms performing construction, sanitation and road work under unbid contracts.

In addition, Anderson is accused of conspiring with Fornoff to violate the federal Hobbs Act and with even counts of using interstate travel to promote extortion and bribery. Conviction on all charges could bring a

maximum penalty of 675 years in jail and \$390,000 in fines.

Fornoff, who served briefly in the same role under Agnew, resigned last June after pleading guilty to a tax charge stemming from his alleged role as a middleman between Anderson and the consultants.

A source close to the investigation said that, while Fornoff did not directly involve Agnew, his testimony led prosecutors to at least two engineers whose statements to the U.S. attorney's office prompted a broadening of the probe to include the vice president.

The two are Lester Matz of Matz, Childs and Associates and Jerome Wolff, a former Agnew aide who now heads the environmental services branch of the J. E. Greiner Co.

The 72-page indictment alleges that Anderson extorted five payments totaling \$5600 from Matz, Childs and three payments totaling \$1750 from the Greiner subsidiary.

Matz is a long-time Agnew associate and was involved in a land speculation venture with him before Agnew became governor. Wolff served in Agnew's state administration as head of the former State Roads Commission and later on the vice presidential staff.

Published reports quoting close to the federal investigation headed by U.S. Attorney George Beall have said that one or both of the men have been granted immunity in connection with the Agnew portion of the case.