

Witness Said to Pass Lie Test

By Bill Richards
Washington Post Staff Writer

A key government witness in the special federal investigation of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew passed an FBI lie detector test concerning his charges that he had passed to Agnew money extorted from Maryland engineering and architectural consultants, according to Time magazine.

The FBI polygraph test, which usually is not considered admissible evidence in court, showed that Agnew associate Jerome Wolff was telling the truth when he told federal investigators he passed money extorted from consultants directly to Agnew when he was Maryland governor, the magazine reports.

Time also said that U.S. Attorney George Beall had asked other prospective witnesses in the Baltimore investigation to take similar tests.

The magazine also reported that federal investigators had obtained a diary from Wolff showing payoffs in 1967 and 1968 that were purportedly turned over to Agnew.

Sources contacted by The Washington Post have confirmed the existence of a businessman's datebook, which listed dates of meetings with Agnew. The sources could not say, however, whether the datebook contained any information other than a list of meeting dates.



JEROME WOLFF
... former Agnew aide

Wolff was Agnew's appointed chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission during that time and was responsible for approving all consulting contracts for state roads.

Wolff subsequently became president of Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc., one of Maryland's largest consulting firms. The same prosecution team probing the Agnew allegations last week secured a 39-count grand jury indictment for bribery and extortion against Dale Anderson, the county executive of Baltimore County. One of the eight consulting firms listed in the indictment as giving kickbacks

to Anderson is Greiner Environmental Systems, Inc.

Wolff could not be reached last night for comment, and both the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office refused to comment on the magazine's report.

Wolff was asked to take the lie detector test, Time said, after a visit to Baltimore 10 days ago by Assistant U.S. Attorney General Henry E. Petersen. Petersen spent two days reviewing the case against Agnew with Beall and questioned at least one of the three government witnesses who have been granted limited immunity.

Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson has said he will make the final decision on whether to seek an indictment from the federal grand jury against Agnew.

It was learned yesterday that Paul Gaudreau, president of a Baltimore architecture firm who has been granted immunity, has not been asked to take a lie detector test.

It is not known whether Lester Matz, a Baltimore engineering consultant who has also been given immunity, has been asked to take a similar test.

During his visit to Baltimore, Petersen went over much of the material that Beall and his investigators have gathered in their nine-month investigation into cor-

ruption in Baltimore County. Agnew served as Baltimore County executive from 1963 to 1967, and as Maryland governor from 1967 to 1969.

Petersen also questioned Matz about his allegations that he personally gave money to Agnew. Sources have said that Matz has told investigators that he turned over \$2,500 to Agnew.

Agnew has vehemently denied that he accepted kickbacks from consultants for state or federal work, calling the allegations "damned lies."

It is not known whether Petersen also spoke with Wolff and Gaudreau, but both of the consultants have been cooperating fully with the investigators.

Lie detector tests are not ordinarily allowed as courtroom evidence during a trial unless both sides agree to their presentation. However, the same rules do not apply to a grand jury, where no judge sits and the ground rules for evidence are considerably looser.

If Richardson approves, the federal prosecutors are expected to begin presenting their case against Agnew to the grand jury after Labor Day.