

# Grand Jury in Baltimore May Resume Next Week

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BALTIMORE, Sept. 5 —The Federal grand jury investigating corruption in Maryland is expected to resume meeting next week, with indications that more indictments of local figures will be handed up before any action is taken on Vice President Agnew's case, sources close to the investigation said today.

United States Attorney George Beall, in charge of the investigation, is on vacation this week. The grand jury is not expected to meet again until his return.

The same sources said the prosecutors are still awaiting word from the United States Attorney General, Elliot L. Richardson, on whether evidence gathered thus far against the Vice President is of sufficient nature that it should be brought before a grand jury.

Mr. Richardson must also rule on whether a Vice President can be indicted for a crime without first being impeached.

In Washington, Justice Department sources said Mr. Richardson had not yet decided the two questions.

## Associates Disturbed

At the same time, Washington associates of the Vice President were disturbed at what one said were "efforts to denigrate Vice President Agnew as a person."

They traced those efforts to the White House, and spoke of the following items:

¶A White House leak to the press of the fact that President Nixon was meeting with Mr. Agnew last Saturday.

¶What Mr. Agnew's associates regard as a campaign to build up former Treasury Secretary and Gov. John B. Connally of Texas as a possible replacement for Mr. Agnew.

¶Mr. Nixon's expressions of confidence in the Vice President, which they see as guarded and less than flat all-out support.

Mr. Nixon touched all three items at his White House news conference today.

He said he could not discuss the subject of the two-hour meeting last Saturday on the ground that it was "not appropriate." [Question 1, Page 26.]

The President said he had not talked to Mr. Connally in several weeks.

"Nothing should be made of that one way or another because I enjoy talking to the

Governor," Mr. Nixon added, "and it is very possible I may be talking to him in the future about energy or about a trip he is going to be making abroad."

The President also said he recalled "very well" expressing at a news conference last month, "my confidence in the Vice President's integrity during the time he served as Vice President, during which I have known him."

He said many hypothetical questions have been asked about Mr. Agnew, and added:

"As far as such questions [are] concerned, you're welcome to ask them but I will not dignify any such questions with regard to the charges that have been made by innuendo and otherwise, against the Vice President. I will not dignify them with an answer. It would be an infringement on his rights."

The investigations here deal with Mr. Agnew's service as County Executive in suburban Baltimore County, which all but surrounds the city of Baltimore, and as Governor of Maryland. Mr. Agnew's lawyer, Judah Best, was notified in a letter delivered Aug. 2 that the Vice President was under investigation.

## Some Overlapping

Even if Mr. Richardson rules that the indictment of a sitting Vice President is proper and that the facts gathered in the investigation warrant presentation to a grand jury, sources close to the investigation say, the prosecutors will move first on other state and local figures, although there might be some overlapping.

Thus far, nothing dealing with Mr. Agnew has gone to the grand jury.

In his response to Mr. Beall's letter, delivered in mid-August, the Vice President agreed to turn over his personal financial and tax records and offered to meet with the prosecutors.

Such a meeting has not been scheduled, the sources here said.

Thus far, the grand jury has indicted only one man, N. Dale Anderson, the present County Executive of Baltimore County who succeeded Mr. Agnew. Mr. Anderson was charged on August 23 with 39 counts, including extortion, bribery and conspiracy.

Mr. Anderson has called the charges against him "phony" and a "frame-up."