

New Data

Agnew's Friend Aiding Probe

Washington

I. H. (Bud) Hammerman, a long-time friend of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and a millionaire Baltimore mortgage broker, is cooperating with gating allegations that Agnew received kickbacks from Maryland contractors while governor of the state.

Hammerman, sources said, is providing information in the hope that he himself will receive either leniency or some other form of consideration from the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore which has been conducting the Agnew probe.

Hammerman and another long-time Agnew friend, J. Walter Jones, were notified along with the vice president last month that they were under investigation. Both men have proclaimed their innocence and refused to comment on the investigation.

Jones, an Annapolis banker, was accused, sources said, of extorting money from Maryland contractors and of turning over at least part of the money to Agnew. He has denied the charges and, sources said, main-

tained that he cannot cooperate with federal prosecutors because he has no information to offer them.

The allegations against Hammerman have been less clear, but sources close to the case have consistently maintained that this cooperation would be most valuable to the prosecution because of his years of association and friendship with Agnew.

Hammerman, the president of the S. L. Hammerman organization, attended school in Baltimore with Agnew and has remained a friend ever since. Although nominally a Democrat, he has been a prime Agnew fundraiser and contributor in most of Agnew's campaign stretching back to his successful 1962 contest for Baltimore county executive.

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