

Anderson Will Run For Executive Again

From News Dispatches

TOWSON, Sept. 18—Dale Anderson, facing federal trial for bribery, extortion and conspiracy, announced today he will be a candidate next year for election to his third term as executive of Baltimore County.

Anderson, the Democrat who succeeded Vice President Agnew as chief officer of the populous suburban county, made the statement at his first formal news conference since being indicted last month by a special federal grand jury.

The 56-year-old county executive was the first public official indicted in the continuing probe of alleged political corruption at various levels of government in Maryland.

The investigation has spread to Agnew, with federal prosecutors issuing subpoenas for public records covering Agnew's years as Baltimore County executive, Maryland governor and Vice President.

Anderson, one of Maryland's most powerful Democrats, opened the news conference by saying that on the advice of his lawyer he would refuse to answer questions concerning "my legal problems."

After responding to inquiries about local issues, he was asked whether he had considered resigning or taking leave pending his trial.

"I have given it no thought at all," Anderson replied. "I intend to be here for a long time, and when next year comes, I intend to be a candidate for re-election."

Anderson's trial in U. S. District Court in Baltimore has been set for Jan. 7. But it is possible that delays and appeals could put off the final decision in Anderson's case until sometime during next year's county executive race, or even after the November, 1974, election.

Anderson's announcement that he intends to run for re-election raises the possibility that he might be elected and then convicted, or be elected after being convicted.

Convicted felons are barred by law from voting. However, Deputy Maryland Attorney General Henry Lord said today he knows of no state law

prohibiting a convicted man from holding public office. Baltimore County State's Attorney Bruce Alderman said he knows of no county law barring a convicted individual from public office.

Baltimore County Republican Chairman Arthur Stiles said he was "amazed" Anderson would talk of running for re-election "with this cloud over him." Stiles said, "I don't think he's seriously thinking of running."

Asked whether he thought the indictment would hurt his chances, Anderson said, "If I didn't think I could win, I wouldn't have just announced I am a candidate."

Anderson then was asked whether he would accept campaign contributions from architects, engineers and other consultants doing nonbid work for the county.

"Under ordinary circumstances, I would," he said. "Accepting the contributions is no mistake. It's paying them back, and I haven't done that."

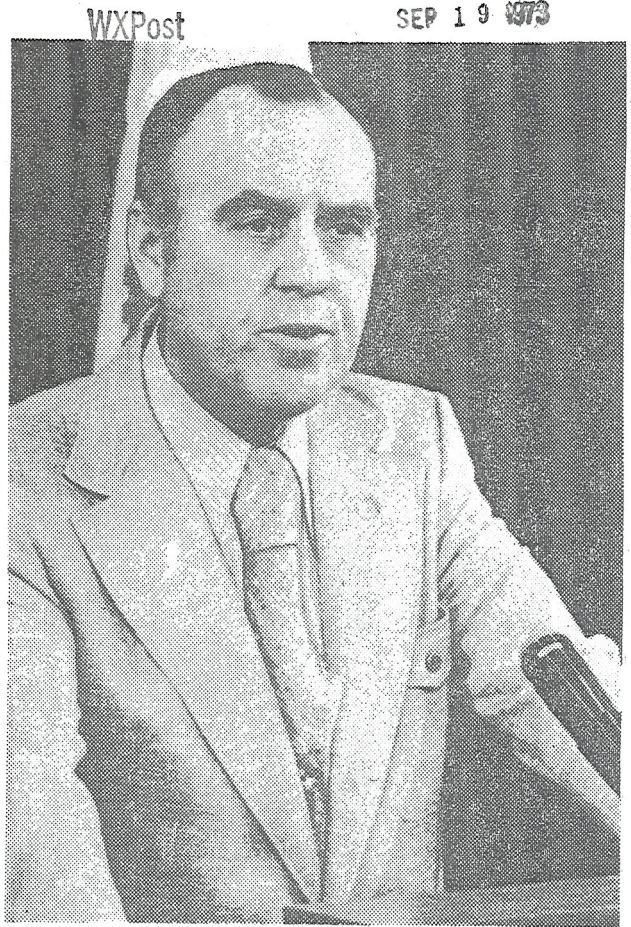
Anderson twice refused to respond to direct questions whether he would accept campaign money from consultants for the 1974 race.

Anderson pleaded innocent last week to the 39-count indictment accusing him with conspiring with his former chief administrative officer, William E. Fornoff, to extort 31 bribes worth \$46,420 from eight engineering and architectural firms doing work for the county.

He also is charged with conspiring with Fornoff to violate the federal Hobbs Act and with seven counts of using interstate travel to promote bribery and extortion.

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

Sources close to the investigation have said that it was Fornoff's closed door testimony that led prosecutors to at least two consultants who in turn gave information prompting the widening of the probe to the Vice President.



Associated Press

Dale Anderson holds first news conference since being indicted in the probe of alleged political corruption.