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**Agnew Counsel Reported  
To Seek Inquiry on Leaks**

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BALTIMORE, Oct. 2—Vice President Agnew's lawyers will meet with Federal District Judge Walter E. Hoffman in secret tomorrow in a reported effort to set up an inquiry into leaks of information about the Agnew investigation, according to persons familiar with the case.

The lawyers were reportedly prepared to seek Judge Hoffman's permission to question witnesses under oath about news leaks.

The witnesses, it was said, might include the top Justice Department officials Mr. Agnew attacked in a speech in Los Angeles last Saturday for what he called such "flagrant, unprofessional and outrageous" handling of his case that "the entire system of justice is under attack."

The contention that Mr. Agnew has been the victim of "malicious" Justice Department news leaks is a main element of the Vice President's defense. In the Los Angeles speech he called himself the intended "trophy" of Justice Department lawyers who he said were trying to regain reputations

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stained by failure to excel in the Government's Watergate investigation.

The closed hearing at the United States Courthouse here was scheduled, without official announcement, for the same day that the Federal grand jury investigating allegations of contract kickbacks involving the former Maryland Governor was to speed up its one-day-a-week schedule.

With only two exceptions in an inquiry that has continued for nine months, the jurors have been assembled on only one day each week, on Thursday. It was confirmed today, however, that the grand jury would meet both Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The last two-day meeting, on Aug. 22 and 23, resulted in the indictment of N. Dale Anderson, Mr. Agnew's Democratic successor as the elected executive of suburban Baltimore County. Mr. Anderson, who has said he is innocent, was charged with 39 counts of extortion and bribery for allegedly receiving kickback payments from con-

tractors.

#### First Sitting for Judge

The closed hearing tomorrow before Judge Hoffman would mark the first time that the 66-year-old judge from the Federal District Court at Norfolk, Va., has come here to preside over a confrontation between attorneys for the Vice President and the Justice Department. All nine Federal judges in Baltimore have disqualified themselves from sitting in the case because of past personal or political associations with Mr. Agnew.

In a brief hearing with the opposing lawyers in his Norfolk chambers last Friday, Judge Hoffman formally received Mr. Agnew's petition to bar further presentation of evidence concerning him to the grand jury here. The judge then set a schedule for pre-hearing briefs and pleadings on the request to stop the inquiry, starting next Friday, with the first full hearing set for Oct. 12.

Mr. Agnew contends that a sitting Vice President cannot constitutionally be indicted and that the allegations against him cannot be given fair consideration by the grand jury because of news leaks and prejudicial publicity about his case.

The sudden, unscheduled proceedings before Judge Hoffman here tomorrow, kept so tightly secret that it could not be officially confirmed anywhere, reportedly was set to receive the request of Mr. Agnew's lawyers for extraordinary court authority to take sworn statements from Government officials believed by them to be the source of leaks to newsmen, and perhaps from newsmen themselves.

Mr. Agnew's lawyers would make no comment tonight on the nature of the hearing. The United States Attorney's office here, whose lawyers are to attend the closed hearing, has maintained a policy of refusing to comment on any grand jury matter.

It was unclear to lawyers here familiar with the grand jury investigation whether, in fact, Mr. Agnew's lawyers would have standing to obtain court authority now for such sworn interrogations, or whether they would have to wait until Mr. Agnew was indicted.

The Federal grand jury will also meet tomorrow. Although the grand jury is expected to hold a full session and hear wit-

nesses relating to Mr. Agnew, the identity of only one witness could be learned today.

He is William J. Muth, who, according to sources close to the investigation, is expected to be asked five questions. If he refuses to answer, the sources said, he will be given immunity from prosecution in an attempt to compel him to testify.

If a witness refuses to answer questions after being given immunity, he is taken before a judge, who can hold him in contempt of court and send him to jail until the term of the grand jury expires.

Mr. Muth, who appeared last

week before the grand jury and "reluctantly" invoked his constitutional privilege against potential self-incrimination, said in an interview today that he would "try to answer the questions if I can."

Mr. Muth, who has been a political supporter and fund raiser for Mr. Agnew since 1966, said, however, that before answering questions he would insist on telling the grand jury that he suffered a heart attack June 26, 1972, and that his heart stopped for two minutes.

Sources close to the investigation said today that the prosecutors were interested in a \$1,000-a-plate Baltimore dinner held Sept. 26, 1972, one of many dinners held that day throughout the country to raise funds for President Nixon's reelection campaign.

Mr. Muth on the committee that organized the Baltimore dinner at the Hunt Valley Inn, which was addressed by Mr. Nixon over closed-circuit television. It drew about 200 people and raised about \$160,000, Mr. Muth said in an interview.

Mr. Muth identified as the key man in organizing the dinner J. Walter Jones, a financier and real estate developer who was a Nixon finance committee official in several states, including Maryland.

Mr. Jones, who has also been notified by the United States Attorney's office here that he is under investigation for possible violations of conspiracy, bribery, extortion and tax laws, is a close associate of Mr. Agnew.

Mr. Muth said in previous interviews that, two months before the dinner, he and other members of the committee met in the board room of the Chesapeake Bank. Mr. Jones presided and outlined the plans for the dinner, he said.

Mr. Muth said that at the meeting Mr. Jones distributed lists of previous contributors that named companies, their "key men" and their telephone numbers.

#### Solicitations for Tickets

The members of the committee, which included Lester Matz, the head of Matz, Childs

& Associates, a key witness against Mr. Agnew, then took the lists and called the people they knew best to solicit tickets to the dinner.

Mr. Muth said that, among other acquaintances, he had called members of two engineering firms—Joe Huang, then of General Engineering, and Bob Bond, of the Wilson T. Ballard Company—to ask whether they had bought tickets.

He recalled that Mr. Huang had told him that he had previously contributed and that Mr. Bond had said that his chief, Mr. Ballard, planned to purchase two tickets.

Mr. Muth said that as far as he knew there was nothing wrong in the way the dinner was handled and that its finances had been audited by a reputable accounting firm.

He said, however, that one thing that struck him at the time was that most of the people he had called had said that they had already contributed to other fund raisers. "The Republicans had so much money already," he said, "I don't know why we were asked to hit them again. It was like asking for blood."

#### Major Area of Inquiry

According to sources close to the investigation, one of the main areas of the inquiry concerns campaign contributions made by engineering firms in return for favored treatment in the awarding of consulting contracts.

Mr. Muth, who has many acquaintances in the engineering consulting business, has worked as what he described as a "lobbyist" and "contract getter" for three firms in the last 12 years. He is now employed by Hurst-Rosche Engineers, Inc.

Mr. Muth said in the interview today that he had put no pressure on the people he called to contribute and that so far as he knew they had received no favors in return. He repeated his charges that the investigation was a "witch hunt" to bring down Mr. Agnew, whom he called one of the "finest Vice Presidents in the history of the Nation."