

AGNEW JURY HEAD INTO CRUCIAL WEEK

U.S. Panel Expected to Call Maryland Contractors

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BALTIMORE, Oct. 7—A Federal grand jury is expected to get to the crux of the criminal investigation of Vice President Agnew this week while attorneys for the Government and Mr. Agnew argue constitutional questions.

Working against an Oct. 26 deadline, the United States Attorney in Baltimore is expected to call for testimony several consulting engineers and contractors who did business with the State of Maryland while Mr. Agnew was Governor.

In a letter to Mr. Agnew on Aug. 2, the United States Attorney, George Beall, said that the Vice President was being investigated for possible bribery, extortion, fraud and conspiracy.

At least one consulting engineer, Eugene Y. Hsi, was subpoenaed by the grand jury last Thursday, as was Mr. Agnew's former executive secretary, Ormsby S. Moore.

Another former Agnew aide, Jerome B. Wolff, an executive now of two consulting engineering concerns, was called to the Federal courthouse in Baltimore Friday for questioning by the prosecutors.

Constitutional Questions

The constitutional questions—whether a Vice President can be indicated while in office and whether newsmen can be forced to disclose news sources—may end up in the Supreme court.

Federal District Judge Walter E. Hoffman is scheduled to hear arguments about the possible indictment of a Vice President on Friday and Saturday.

Newsmen and lawyers from the Justice Department who have been subpoenaed will be questioned Wednesday and Thursday. The department has refused to say which of its personnel have been subpoenaed.

In preparation for the questioning of the Justice Department lawyers and the newsmen, Mr. Agnew's lawyers have had access to personal information about several Government employes and at least one newsmen.

In a speech in California eight days ago, Mr. Agnew accused Henry E. Petersen, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division of the Justice Department, of leaking information to reporters.

Reason for Deadline

The Oct. 26 deadline was announced by the Justice Department in its memorandum filed Friday in answer to Mr. Agnew's contention that a sitting Vice President is immune from criminal action.

"The statute of limitations with respect to some of the possible illegal activities being investigated will run out as early as Oct. 26, 1973," the Justice Department said.

"A suspension of the grand jury's investigation of the Vice President and others could therefore jeopardize the possibility of a timely indictment," it continued.

"Should this court suspend the grand jury investigation, the result would likely be to accord the Vice President and other persons permanent immunity from prosecution," the department concluded.

Federal law prohibits prosecution of bribery or extortion charges after five years and of tax fraud after six years.

Expected Questions

If Mr. Wolff, who was an aide to Mr. Agnew for 10 years, is called to testify before the grand jury this week as has been indicated, he will probably be asked about the last few weeks of Mr. Agnew's administration as Maryland Governor.

Mr. Agnew resigned as Governor in January, 1969, to become Vice President.

Mr. Wolff, who is president of Greiner Environmental Services and a vice president of the J. B. Greiner Engineering Company, was granted limited immunity from prosecution several months ago.

If he should refuse to testify before the grand jury, he could be jailed for contempt of court.

Time magazine reported in August that Mr. Wolff had been given a lie detector test by the Federal investigators to test the accuracy of his statements.