

The Agnew witness and his

By Margaret Gentry
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Government prosecutors buttressed their case against former Vice President Agnew with an array of corroborating evidence, including a diary kept by one of the key witnesses who listed, day by day, the illegal payments

reaped in the kickback scheme Agnew was accused of promoting.

Justice Department sources are reluctant to elaborate on the documentary evidence discussed in the 40-page summary of its case against Agnew.

But they say the case rested on much more than the

unsupported word of four men who were seeking leniency, as Agnew has claimed repeatedly.

Agnew said last Monday that the government case "rested entirely on the testimony of individuals who had already confessed to criminal acts and who had been granted total or partial im-

munity in exchange for their testimony against me."

The justice department says no witness has been granted total immunity from prosecution. Two have been promised partial immunity, and two others have agreed to plead guilty to a single tax charge—carry a maximum three-year prison sen-

daily kickback diary

tence.

Prosecutors say their account of an intricate kickback scheme is corroborated by written records.

Among the documents is a diary kept by Jerome Wolff, one of the four key witnesses and the state roads commission chairman during Agnew's term as governor.

According to the prosecutors, "Wolff kept detailed contemporaneous documents on which he recorded the dates, amounts and engineering firm sources of the monies that he received from (I.H.) Hammerman as his share of the proceeds of the scheme."

Hammerman is the Agnew

friend who solicited and received illegal kickbacks from seven Maryland contracting firms the prosecutors said.

Acting on Agnew's orders, he gave half the money to Agnew, kept one-fourth for himself and gave one-fourth to Wolff, the government says.

Wolff's diary is "among a large volume of corroborative documents that Wolff has turned over to the United States attorney's office," the government said.

In addition, prosecutors examined Agnew's tax returns, bank books and other personal financial records for at least the past five years.

They sifted through 130 boxes of records from Agnew's two years as governor and some 15 filing cabinets jammed with Federal Highway Administration records