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Agnew Pays Tax Evasion Fine

By Bill Richards

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Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew paid a \$10,000 fine for income tax evasion yesterday with a personal check sent by mail to the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore.

U.S. Attorney George Beall said the certified check, drawn on Agnew's personal account at the First National Bank of Washington and inscribed with the names of both Agnew and his wife, Eleanor, arrived in his office mail yesterday morning. The check was turned over to Paul R. Schlitz, Baltimore federal court clerk, for deposit in a government account.

The fine was paid in compliance with an order by U.S. District Court Judge Walter E. Hoffman after Agnew pleaded no contest Oct. 10 to a single charge of income tax evasion in 1967.

Hoffman's order followed the negotiated no contest plea—the legal equivalent of a guilty plea—and also placed Agnew on three years of unsupervised probation. Agnew re-

signed as Vice President at the time of his plea.

Although payment of the fine apparently resolves the last of the federal government's sanctions against the former Vice President, Agnew still faces a number of problems stemming from the U.S. attorney's investigation of bribery, conspiracy, extortion and tax evasion charges against him.

• High Maryland legal sources said yesterday that Agnew may be contemplating resigning from the legal profession rather than face open disbarment proceedings. But the sources said that the Maryland Bar Association may refuse to accept the resignation, which would leave Agnew free to seek admission to the bar in other states, and press for a resignation with prejudice or disbarment. Either alternative would make it difficult for Agnew to be readmitted to the bar in Maryland or admitted to a bar in any other state. Disbarment proceedings usually are brought against attorneys convicted of a felony.

• Three local prosecutors have reserved the right to prosecute Agnew in their own jurisdictions. The three issued a joint statement two weeks ago saying they would hold off any decision until Beall completes his own investigation or for "a reasonable amount of time."

• Agnew still faces civil action by the Internal Revenue Service and the state of Maryland over thousands of dollars in unpaid taxes on nearly \$100,000 he allegedly received in payoffs from at least seven Maryland consulting engineering firms.

According to a 40-page summation of evidence issued by the U.S. attorney's office at the time of Agnew's plea, the firms paid the money in return for priority in obtaining work while Agnew served as governor of Maryland and later as Vice President. Agnew has denied the allegations.

Since then a rush of other events, including the Arab-Israeli war and President Nixon's dismissal of Special Watergate Prosecutor Archi-

With \$10,000 Check

held Cox virtually have eclipsed Agnew's shattered career.

Agnew has been seen publicly only a few times and could not be reached yesterday for comment. Last weekend, newsmen spotted Agnew and his friend, singer Frank Sinatra, in Chicago and speculation arose that they might be negotiating the purchase of a franchise in the newly formed World Football League.

Friends and associates of the former Vice President discounted the rumors and said Agnew has not yet made up his mind on his future.

Agnew did discuss financial affairs with Sinatra in Chicago, according to the associates, and met for a two-hour lunch with millionaire W. Clement Stone. An aide to Stone said they talked about the status of the Agnew Legal Defense Fund, which was set up before Agnew made his no contest plea.

The amount of money in the fund has not been disclosed. Stone's aide said none of it will be used for any bills other than legal bills incurred before Agnew's plea. Contrib-

utors to the fund have been notified they have 30 days to request their money back, the aide said.

Agnew's resignation cost him his \$62,500 annual salary and federal pension rights, according to the Civil Service Commission. He has retained some trappings of his former office on orders from the White House.

A Secret Service spokesman said Agnew will continue to receive Secret Service protection indefinitely under an order made by the White House after Agnew's resignation, but would not reveal the cost of the protection.

Agnew has still been traveling in a government limousine and retains a transition office staffed by eight of his former aides.

A spokesman for the real estate firm of Burr, Morris and Pardoe, which has a written guarantee to handle the sale of Agnew's \$190,000 Kenwood home in Maryland said he has received no word that Agnew is planning to sell the house. "We've had offers," he said. "That house has a certain celebrity value now."