

Of Agnew Plead Guilty

By Fred Barbash

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BALTIMORE, Nov. 11—Federal prosecutors recommended that there be no jail terms for I. H. (Bud) Hammerman and Allen Green, prominent Maryland businessmen who today pleaded guilty to tax charges stemming from their admitted participation in the payment of illegal cash kickbacks to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

As part of the negotiated agreement under which each cooperated in the investigation of Agnew, the two face maximum penalties of three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine but no other criminal charges to which they might have been subjected.

A specially assembled three-judge panel, which is not bound by the prosecutors' recommendations, heard the guilty pleas today. The same panel will impose the sentences on Nov. 25 in U.S. District Court here.

Judge Roszel C. Thomsen, who presided today, declined to elaborate on why a three-judge panel was being used in the case. "We thought it wise," he said.

U.S. Attorney George Beall said today he would not explain until the time of sentencing his recommendation of no jail term today. The

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I. H. Hammerman enters Baltimore court prior to guilty plea in kickback case.

PROBE, From A1

prosecutors are believed to have been heavily influenced in their recommendation by the fact that Agnew, who the government says was the initiator, coordinator and main beneficiary of the kickback scheme, did not receive a jail sentence.

The former vice president and Maryland governor pleaded no contest to a tax evasion charge before he resigned Oct. 10, 1973. As part of his agreement with the government, he was fined \$10,000 and placed on three years' unsupervised probation.

Green, 53, and Hammerman, 54, pleaded guilty today to one charge each of interfering with the administration of tax laws by dealing in cash.

Each also admitted, for the first time publicly, that they participated in a kickback scheme with Agnew.

Responding to a statement of facts read by Assistant U.S. Attorney Barnet D. Skolnik, Green confirmed that between January, 1967, and January, 1969, when Agnew was governor, he paid cash to Agnew in an effort to obtain state engineering work for his firm.

The arrangement, said Skolnik's statement to which Green admitted, was "a direct result of a tacit understanding" with Agnew. Green "did on more than one occasion deliver to then Gov. Agnew plain white envelopes containing substantial quantities of United States currency," the statement said.

A similar statement presented today regarding Hammerman said that between January, 1967, and January, 1969, Hammerman had received "from various engineers and others" cash payments destined for then Gov. Agnew.

Hammerman, the statement delivered in court today by Beall said, "Had an understanding with Gov. Agnew and with Jerome B. Wolff, then chairman-director of the Maryland State Roads Commission, that any monies received by Mr. Hammerman from engineers and others which were paid in an effort to acquire engineering contracts or other business from the state of Maryland would be split among the three men, with 50 per cent going to Mr. Agnew, and 25 per cent each to Mr. Wolff and to Mr. Hammerman."

Wolff and Lester Matz, another engineer who prosecutors say participated in the kickback scheme, have not been charged but still are under investigation.

The guilty pleas by Hammerman and Green, and their admissions about the kickback system, leave only Agnew himself and Annapolis banker J. Walter Jones continuing to assert their innocence.

Jones was named by prosecutors in a related court proceeding last month as one of those who collected illegal cash kickbacks for Agnew.

Later, Jones angrily called the statement "slandorous and despicable" and described allegations against him as "lies from individuals" attempting to save themselves.

Wolff and Matz have been granted limited forms of immunity that assure them—as Hammerman and Green were assured in their agreements—that they will not be prosecuted for information they provide while cooperating with prosecutors.

Hammerman, until the summer of 1973 when the Agnew case became public knowledge, was a millionaire mortgage broker and philanthropist, a pillar of Northwest Baltimore's Jewish community and of the city's civic life.

Today, after entering his plea, Hammerman stood with head bowed in U.S. District Court while Beall described his role in the kickback system.

Asked by Judge Joseph H. Young if, in fact, he had done what Beall described, Hammerman quietly responded: "I did, sir."

Before the arraignment, and before he was stopped from talking by his lawyer, Sidney S. Sachs, Hammerman had talked of not having slept well for six months.

"How old are you?" he asked 29-year-old reporter questioning him. "Watch yourself," he said. "If I had watched myself when I was your age I wouldn't be here today."

Green, whose engineering firm of Green Associates has been sold since the scandal broke, followed Hammerman to the bench and entered his plea of guilty.

Beall said he had disqualified himself from all decisions relating to Green because a brother of Beall's was employed by Green's engineering firm.

Both men were released on personal recognizance pending the Nov. 25 sentencing.

Green and Hammerman were charged in criminal informations, rather than indictments. The procedure is used by prosecutors when defendants agree to plead guilty without a grand jury indictment.