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Agnew Prosecutor
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Former U.S. Attorney George Beall, who prosecuted Spiro T. Agnew, has reacted sharply to the former vice president's statements charging the government case against him "rested entirely" on testimony of persons seeking to save their own necks.

Beall's onetime boss, U.S. Attorney Elliot Richardson also defended the Justice Department's handling of the Agnew case.

Beall, who resigned as prosecutor for Maryland last spring,

characterized Agnew's statements last week to the Associated Press as the start of a "rehabilitation campaign."

Agnew was allowed to plead no contest to a single charge of tax evasion and resign from office on Oct. 10, 1973.

"I categorically deny the rest," Agnew told the Associated Press in an interview last Thursday after admitting to the tax evasion count. "Some day when the various court cases are over, I'll be able to speak freely."

Agnew said that "the government's case for extortion, bribery

Slams His Remarks

and conspiracy rested entirely on the testimony of individuals who had already confessed to criminal acts and who had been granted partial immunity in exchange for their testimony against me."

The former vice president had criticized prosecutors for making public a 40-page exposition of allegations against him that had not been proved in court.

Beall said, however, that despite Agnew's public denials, the 40-page brief detailing a pattern of kickbacks accepted by Agnew while he was Baltimore county executive, governor and

vice president stands as the public record of Agnew's involvement.

He said that anyone wanting to know how strong the case against Agnew was should read the 40-page exposition.

Beall's comments appeared in Sunday editions of the Washington Post.

Richardson, who is now U.S. ambassador to Great Britain was also interviewed by the Post, and said of the Justice Department's acts: "I think what we did was right."

Associated Press