

Two Charged in Dump-Agnew Plot

SEATTLE, MAY 3, 1972

Boston

Two Massachusetts businessmen were accused in court yesterday of trying to raise \$500,000 in an effort to influence Richard Nixon to dump Spiro Agnew as his 1972 running mate in favor of former Governor John Volpe.

There was no evidence that Nixon asked for or received any money and no indication of how

much money actually was raised. Volpe denied any knowledge of such a scheme, and the former president was not available for comment.

William Mastello, head of a Worcester architectural firm, and Albert Manzi, a member of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, pleaded not guilty at arraignment on extortion charges.

Stephen Delinsky, first assistant attorney general for the state of Massachusetts, said at the session in Suffolk Superior Court that the two men attempted to raise \$500,000 in cash "for the purpose of delivering the money to former President Nixon either before the Republican National Convention or during the convention."

Their aim, Delinsky said, was "to influence Nixon's decision" to substitute Volpe for Agnew as the vice presidential nominee on the Republican ticket.

At the time, Volpe was serving as Nixon's secretary of transportation. Nixon later named him U.S. ambassador to Italy.

As part of their attempt to raise the cash, Delinsky said, the two men extorted \$10,000 from the New York consulting firm of McKeever-Berger-Mansueto, which at the



WILLIAM MASELLO
They are accused of trying to raise \$500,000 to influence Nixon

time held a \$6 million state contract to supervise construction of the University of Massachusetts Boston campus.

Manzi and Mastello were named in seven indictments returned by a Suffolk county grand jury last Friday.

They are charged with three counts each of extortion, and both men are named in one indictment charging them with violating the state's Corrupt Practices Act. The



ALBERT MANZI
AP Wirephotos

law prohibits state employees and officials from soliciting campaign contributions.

Delinsky said the two men threatened the consulting firm "with financial destruction" by using a state employee to make trouble on the university project.

He said the two also made other threats "of a political nature" on which he would not elaborate at the court session.

Associated Press



JOHN VOLPE
AP Wirephotos
The plotters' choice