

# Taxpayers sue Agnew

United Press International  
ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Former Vice President Spiro Agnew won't be in court to face a civil suit against him, but trial proceedings may shed new light on a kickback scandal that prompted his resignation in 1973.

The suit, filed by three Montgomery County taxpayers, seeks to have Agnew repay \$200,000 in kickbacks he allegedly received when he was governor of Maryland. The trial, scheduled to begin today, caps five years of delays.

"The public interest demands the money be returned," Bill Dobeveir, an attorney for the taxpayers, said Monday. "My clients will not get a penny

out of it."

The civil suit in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court is based on statements made by several of Agnew's associates to federal prosecutors during the investigation that led to his downfall.

Sources in the Maryland attorney general's office said Monday former State Roads Commission Chairman Jerome Wolff, a co-defendant in the case, has agreed to testify for the state. Wolff was among those who originally detailed a series of payoffs involving road contracts while Agnew was governor and vice president.

Dobeveir said a private highway engineer, whom he declined to identify, would be a

primary witness for the taxpayers.

"He's an engineer who refused to pay the kickbacks," he said. "That's all I'm going to tell you right now."

The three taxpayers, John McMillan, Reina Chassy and Suzanne Saul, filed the suit as part of a law-school project.

Dobeveir said Stewart Mott, a General Motors heir and noted liberal activist, was paying the legal costs for the trio.

Agnew's attorney, T. Rogers Harrison, has been ordered by the court to supply the tax settlement Agnew made after pleading no contest to federal income tax evasion charges and resigning as vice president.

The information, which includes Agnew's income tax returns from 1966 to 1972, has never been made public.

Harrison declined to be interviewed about the case, but Dobeveir said he had already agreed to supply most of the information sought by the court.

In the settlement that kept him out of prison, Agnew admitted on Oct. 10, 1973 that he failed to report \$129,500 in income in 1967. He also said he received \$87,500 plus other "substantial cash payments" in kickbacks and bribes from contractors doing business with the state of Maryland.

Agnew, 62, is now an independent businessman and lives in Palm Springs, Calif.

# Vietnamese fishermen want FBI protection

United Press International  
HOUSTON — A lawyer for Vietnamese fishermen said Tuesday he would ask FBI Director William Webster to protect the refugees from Ku Klux Klan threats intended to drive them out of business before shrimping season starts May 15.

Meanwhile, Klansmen and native Texan fishermen held a news conference in Seabrook on Galveston Bay to deny violent intent. They accused the refugees of Communist infiltration and criminal acts threatening the Americans' livelihood.

Attorney David H. Berg said in a letter to Washington that the Vietnamese were being harassed

by the Klan and native fishermen who resent the refugees' vigorous competition in fishing Galveston Bay.

"We are appealing to your agency to provide protection to the Vietnamese fishermen and their families and to step up your investigation of the case between now and May 15, when shrimping season opens," Berg's letter said.

"We feel your efforts may prevent physical harm to members of the Vietnamese community.

"They are being run out for no other reason than the fact that they have pursued and achieved the American dream of personal success in business and family," Berg's letter said.

Berg, attorney Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala., and attorney John Hayslip of Texas City filed a federal court suit last Thursday on behalf of Vietnamese fishermen seeking court protection.

The Klan and a group of native Texas fishermen held a cross-burning rally on Feb. 14 in Santa Fe, Texas, which threatened to drive the Vietnamese out by force if the government failed to reduce alleged overcrowding in coastal fishing.

The suit charged that opponents of the Vietnamese burned crosses near their homes, paraded a boat loaded with robbed and armed Klansmen, threatened to kill the refugees if they did not leave and harassed Americans friendly to the refugees.

The lawsuit asked U.S. District Judge Gabrielle K. McDonald to issue an injunction forbidding the harassment, which the lawyers charged violates civil rights, anti-racketeering and — in a novel twist — antitrust laws.

At the Seabrook news conference, Klan titan James Stanfield and fisherman David Collins said they would hold another anti-Vietnamese rally at Santa Fe on May 9.

They denied violent intent, but Stanfield charged Communists had infiltrated into the United States among the Vietnamese refugees and said the Klan would defend itself by force if necessary.

"We know North Vietnamese Communists have infiltrated these refugees just as (Cuban Premier Fidel) Castro mixed Communist spies in with the Cuban immigrants to agitate and dispute our country," Stanfield said.

"If these North Vietnamese Communists try unlawful acts against us, we will be ready to defend ourselves."

Collins, a spokesman for the Seabrook-Kemah Fishermen's Association, said: "We welcome this lawsuit, because it will provide the opportunity for the American public to know and understand the problems imposed upon American citizens by the relocation of large numbers of Vietnamese in the Kemah-Seabrook area.

"We have evidence of criminal acts committed by the Vietnamese against the American citizens in an attempt to intimidate, harass and obstruct us from fishing in Galveston Bay."

Collins refused to elaborate, but association president Gene Fisher said a Vietnamese man had said he would kill 10 Americans if one Vietnamese boat was burned.

The Klan and the American fishermen opposed to the Vietnamese said they have hired attorneys Sam Adamo and Richard Cobb of Houston to represent them in the lawsuit.

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\$10	109,920	90 to 1	6 to 1	3 to 1
Total	154,462	40.9 to 1	2.6 to 1	1.6 to 1

# 25th death is ruled asphyxiation

United Press International  
ATLANTA — A 23-year-old black man who may have been the 25th victim of Atlanta's child killers died of asphyxiation, a medical examiner ruled Tuesday.

The body of Michael Cameron McIntosh was pulled from the Chattahoochee River Monday, the second body to be recovered from the river in as many days. Six other victims have been found in rivers.

Authorities have not yet officially added McIntosh's name to the list of Atlanta's murdered or missing young blacks, but they said there was a "great possibility" he was the victim of the same slayers.

"We are going to classify this as asphyxia due to some sort of suffocation," assistant Fulton County Medical Examiner Dr. John Feegel said Tuesday after examining McIntosh's body.

He said there was no evidence of sexual abuse, despite the fact McIntosh's body was nude when it was found.

At least a dozen of Atlanta's child victims have died from asphyxiation.

Assistant Police Chief Louis Graham said McIntosh — a 5-foot-5, 100-pound young man last seen alive by his family three weeks ago — had an arrest record stretching from 1976 to 1980 that included armed robbery, drunkenness, theft by taking, criminal trespass and one drug charge, possession of marijuana.

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