

also went directly to local governments, primarily to finance educational and police protection improvements and to provide real estate tax credits for the elderly — needs that otherwise would have fallen on local property taxes.

The Governor is a native of Baltimore City. He was born November 9, 1918, the only son of Theodore Spiro Agnew, a restaurant operator and a leader of the city's Greek community, and the former Margaret Akera of Bristol, Virginia. His father came to this country in 1897 at the age of 21 from the village of Gargalianos, in Messenia, Peloponnesus, Greece. Both parents are deceased. The family name Agnew was shortened from the Greek name Anagnostopoulos by the Governor's father.

Governor Agnew received his formal education in the public schools of Baltimore City, The Johns Hopkins University, where he studied chemistry for three years before turning to law, and the University of Baltimore, where he received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1947 after returning from service in the Army. He also holds honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Maryland and Morgan State College.

During World War II he was a company commander with the 10th Armored Division in the European Theater of Operations. He was recalled for an additional year of Army service during the Korean War.

The Governor became interested in public affairs as a practicing attorney in Baltimore County and as president of the Loch Raven Community Council. He was active in moves to obtain open spaces legislation in the county and also in the successful drive for charter "home rule" government which replaced the Board of County Commissioners in 1957 with a full-time County Executive and Council.

In 1957 he was appointed minority member of the County Board of Appeals, which hears zoning appeals, and later became its chairman. His ouster in 1961 by the Democratic-controlled County Council, despite widespread backing from civic organizations, brought his name to new prominence and led him to run the following year for County Executive. He won despite a Democratic registration edge of nearly 4 to 1.

Under his administration, Baltimore County became one of the first in the nation to enact a public accommodations law and also passed legislation to require "open spaces" for park and recreational use in all new subdivisions.