

Convicted Godel Sued By U.S. for \$33,800

By JERRY KLINE

Star Staff Writer

Former Defense Department official William H. Godel, who was convicted last year of conspiring to embezzle federal funds, was sued by the govern-

ment yesterday for more than \$33,800.

In a civil complaint filed in the Alexandria Federal District Court, U.S. Atty. C. Vernon Spratley Jr. said that Godel submitted six fraudulent vouchers and claims for reimbursement of expenses he incurred as a deputy director with the Defense Department.

The claims were "false, fraudulent and fictitious" and the money had not been spent for authorized purposes, Spratley said.

As a result of the claims, Godel received \$16,922.20 in unauthorized funds, Spratley said. He asked the court to assess Godel twice that amount, or \$33,844.40, including a penalty.

Two of the claims involved Godel's wife, Joan, according to the complaint. In January 1961, Godel presented to the Defense Department a claim by Pan America Airways for \$2,175.90 and stated it resulted from authorized travel by Mrs. Godel during late 1960, Spratley said.

In August 1961, Godel submitted a voucher for \$1,157.30 and said it represented authorized per diem travel money for Mrs. Godel, according to Spratley. Both claims were paid, although Mrs. Godel was not authorized to travel at government expense, the attorney said.

During Godel's trial, it was brought out that Mrs. Godel accompanied her husband on a two-month trip to the Far East in 1960. She was listed on government records as a "consultant without compensation."

Godel, 45, and a codefendant, John A. Wylie, 59, former head of the Defense Department's budget and financial branch, were convicted on embezzlement conspiracy charges on May 21, 1965. Both were sentenced on June 18, 1965, to five years' imprisonment.

Judge Oren R. Lewis stayed the sentences while the two men remained free on \$5,000 bonds pending appeals. Wylie subsequently withdrew his appeal and began serving the sentence last January. The parole board released him last September.

On Oct. 10, the Supreme Court declined to review Godel's conviction. He is expected to begin serving the sentence next week.

A third codefendant, James R. Loftis Jr., 54, former administrative assistant to Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, was granted a separate trial last year and was found not guilty of embezzlement charges.

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