

JACK ANDERSON

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VP's Son, Wife Separate

By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Vice President Spiro Agnew is deeply troubled about his son Randy, who has broken up with his wife and has been living for the past month with a male hairdresser in Baltimore.

Randy, whose full name is James Rand Agnew, is a handsome, clean-cut 24-year-old Vietnam war veteran who works as a weightlifting instructor in a suburban health salon.

He left his wife, Ann, 22 about six months ago. Their daughter, three-year-old Michelle Ann, is the vice president's only grandchild. He named his 1968 campaign plane after her.

Randy has been staying with Buddy Hash, a pleasant, dark-haired man of 27 with a moustache and goatee. He and his mother operate La Triplet, a profitable East Baltimore beauty parlor.

Hash was arrested Jan. 25, 1964, for allegedly maintaining a "disorderly house" and again Sept. 20, 1969, on a charge of marijuana possession. He was cleared of both charges.

For Spiro Agnew, a proudly sensitive man, his son's difficulties are all the more painful because the vice president has lectured the nation on handling young people and has boasted of his own family life.

"I don't have any trouble with my children," he recently told the Miami Herald. "We communicate very well, and there is an easy, relaxed attitude among the family."

IN HIS speeches, Agnew has been sharply critical of "affluent, permissive, upper-middle-class parents who learned their Doctor Spock and threw discipline out the

window when they should have done the opposite."

The vice president acknowledged to this column that Randy and his wife had separated but insisted that "it has been amicable."

"Randy takes the baby some of the time," said the vice president. "His wife will bring the baby to us, and we will deliver the baby back to her parents. There is no rancor."

AGNEW SAID he keeps in close touch with his son. "I don't see him from day to day but he comes down once a week or so. He is living in a converted garage. I have never seen this place, but I know where he is living."

This column found Randy in Buddy Hash's two-story townhouse apartment in the fashionable Bolton Hill section of Baltimore. The decor was elegant, with wall-to-wall carpeting, arty paintings on the walls and an ornate table dominating the front room.

Young Agnew came to the door, barefoot, in white slacks and open-neck, striped shirt. He explained that he had been staying with Hash only temporarily and was in the process of moving out. He said he had rented and fixed up a garage apartment not far from the Holiday Health Salon where he works in Towson, the suburban town where his father's political career began.

"BUDDY IS A friend of a friend, and he was nice enough to let me stay here until I got straightened out," said Randy amiably. "I've got my own place now, and I just stopped by here to use the bathroom because the plumbing in my new place isn't hooked up yet."

He said that he had stayed in Hash's apartment "about a month," that he had been separated from his brunette wife for "about half a year." Asked about the possibilities of a reconciliation, he replied: "I'd rather not comment about that. A lot can happen during a separation."

He also was reluctant to discuss his father's reaction to his situation. "It's completely in my hands," young Agnew said.

This column also spoke with Hash, who put to rest a rumor that Randy had dropped out of society to pursue a hippie existence. "Randy's nowhere near the hippie type," said Hash. "He's really very goody-goody."

THE HAIRDRESER said he had allowed Agnew, whom he had known for some years, to stay with him because he was in debt. "He's got a lot of debts," said Hash. "I guess it's because he's got a wife and kid. Everyone thinks because his father's the vice president, he should have a lot of money, but it just isn't that way."

Hash said his two arrests involved former roommates. The "disorderly house" charge, he said, was brought in Towson after a roommate allegedly roughed up a young boy. "It was a ridiculous charge and it was dismissed," he said.

His marijuana arrest occurred, he said, when police came to his former Baltimore residence looking for a roommate. "It didn't stand up in court," he said. Police records show the case against him was dismissed at a preliminary hearing.

Randy told this column he knew nothing of Hash's arrest record.