

Our boy is at it again!

Strange Bedfellows In Coverlet Caper

By Donald Lambro
United Press International

There's a bedspread shuttling between Washington, D.C., and Augusta, Maine, like a political hot potato. Spiro T. Agnew angrily declares he doesn't want it. Maine's Democratic Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis tartly denies he sent it to the Vice President.

According to Agnew's office, the bedspread was sent by Curtis a day after the Vice President's car was pelted with food and other debris by antiwar protesters when Agnew was in Maine to speak at the Republican state convention.

When the gift arrived, the Vice President's office said, Agnew fired it back with a letter upbraiding Curtis for defending the protesters' action.

But Curtis asserted: "I have never sent Mr. Agnew any gifts of any kind at any time, nor do I intend doing so."

An Agnew spokesman insisted "we definitely received a bedspread from the

governor and it's being returned today."

Agnew said in a letter to Curtis he could not "in good conscience accept your gift."

"It has been reported that you not only encourage the (antiwar) group by sending a supportive message but defended its unlawful actions later," he added of the April 28 incident.

In disavowing his role as a sender of gifts to the Republican Vice President, Curtis told UPI: "It is amazing that in the middle of a national crisis the Vice President would have time to even think about returning a bedspread to someone who never sent it in the first place."

He suggested that if Agnew had time to write "such juvenile letters" as the one rejecting the bedspread, "he might better expend his efforts in thanking the people of Maine, the state police, the local police, airport personnel, army personnel and others who were pressed into service for his partisan visit."

As the mystery of the coverlet caper deepened, Charles Moreshead of the Republican state committee said he believed such a gift was brought to a reception before the convention in August by A. J. (Tony) Petropolis, 89, a retired Lewiston policeman and for four years chairman of the Republican city committee there.

Petropolis (reached by telephone by Washington Post correspondent Maxwell Wiesenthal, said he had a long

talk at the armory reception with the Vice President and told him he had brought him a present. He said he could not recall whether he told the Vice President the present was a bedspread made in Lewiston. The package had been taken beforehand by the Secret service, who said it would be examined and then put aboard the Agnew plane.

[Petropolis said he told the Vice President he came from the town of Megalopolis in Greece near where Agnew's father had lived.

[Petropolis, who had not yet heard about the raging controversy, said he was somewhat surprised that he had not received a letter from the Vice President acknowledging the gift.

["Maybe when he reads about it in your paper he'll know who gave him the bedspread," Petropolis said.]

4 Start Jail Terms For Church Protest

LOS ANGELES, May 10 (UPI) — A former nun and three other persons began jail terms today for disrupting a midnight mass on Christmas Eve of 1969 in St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church.

Authorities said the defendants are members of *Catolicos por la Raza* (Catholics for the People) who were protesting alleged lack of church interest in Chicano poverty.