

## The Agnews' Ethan Allen Look

By Maxine Cheshire

When President Nixon wanted to refurbish Camp David, aide H. R. (Bob) Haldeman sent someone out to pick up a \$7.50 copy of "The Ethan Allen Treasury of Traditional Interiors."

Haldeman himself called the Ethan Allen Early American Company in Danbury, Conn., and ordered the President's interiors by page number. One model room which was duplicated exactly according to the color picture was "The Ski Lodge."

The redecorating project at Camp David was a big success. Particularly with the Spiro T. Agnews. When they bought their \$190,000 house in the Maryland sub-

urbs, they asked the Ethan Allen firm to furnish and decorate the 12 rooms in a "Camp David look." The decorator, Roger Hargreaves, was the same one who designed the new interiors for President Nixon's mountaintop retreat at Thurmont, Md.

The Agnews' project was not an inexpensive one. They had long ago given away all the furniture with which they started marriage. They had no need for their own things in the governor's mansion in Annapolis and the apartment they rented in the Sheraton-Park here was also furnished.

Neither Agnew's office nor the company will discuss how much the furniture cost, but sources in the industry estimate that comparable furniture would cost at least \$25,000.

A spokesman for the Ethan Allen firm, Nathan S. Ansell, said this week that all of the Agnew furniture is in place "except a few accessories." "Most" of the bills have already been paid, he said. "We are not Food Fair," he said, in a reference to the Maryland supermarket chain which sent gifts of food to the Agnews on a regular basis. He added: "We don't give politicians anything."

If the Agnews should now decide that they no longer have any need for a houseful of new furniture, it is too late for them to send any of it back.

Ansell says that Ethan Allen will not oblige. "We don't sell things on consignment," he says.

Ethan Allen's work at Camp David had not been disclosed until now. Ansell says that Haldeman insisted that they keep the assignment a secret.

Both the new furniture and the decorating were billed to Uncle Sam, Ansell said.

White House press secretary Gerald Warren said yesterday that the figures on the cost of the Ethan Allen furniture installed at Camp David were not immediately available. He has asked the General Services Administration to provide a breakdown.

G.S.A. is also preparing for Congress an itemized accounting of money spent at Camp David during the Nixon administration for new construction, remodeling, and refurbishing. These totals are expected to be made public within two weeks.