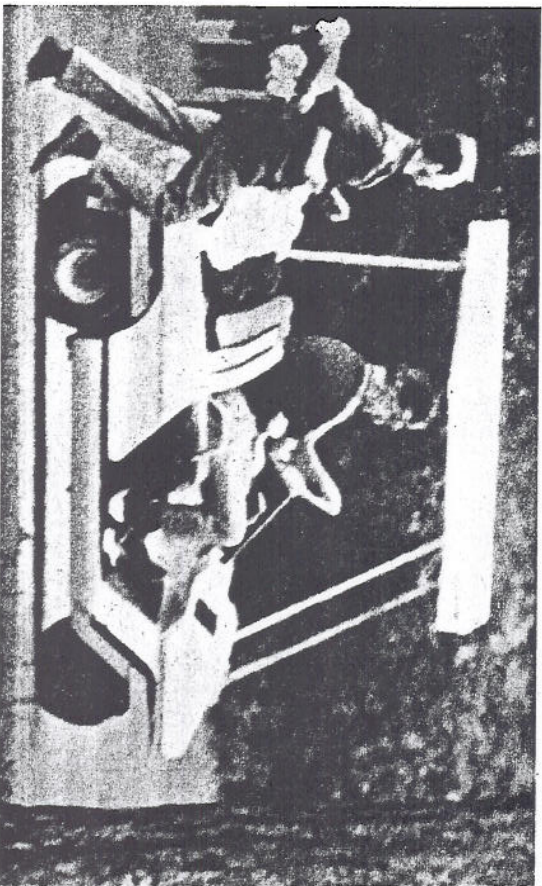


Spiro Agnew: Best-Protected Vice President

by Fred Blumenthal



When the Vice President plays golf one of the agents trots right along behind his cart. Other agents patrol the woods.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

When Vice President Spiro T. Agnew slices his golf ball off the fairway and goes looking for it in the woods, he always finds some friends under the trees waiting for him. They're Secret Service men carrying carbines and automatic rifles in golf bags and their shadowy presence in such out of the way places points up the fact that Mr. Agnew is the best-protected Vice President in U.S. history.

He is not guarded so closely simply because he's made himself such a controversial figure, although that's a partial factor. For example, he may have only ten agents watching him at an Elks Club speech in a small city, but up to 25 on a college campus where emo-

tions may run high.

The close guard on the Vice President is a reflection of the violence of our times and, in nearly every detail, Mr. Agnew receives the same Secret Service protection given President Nixon.

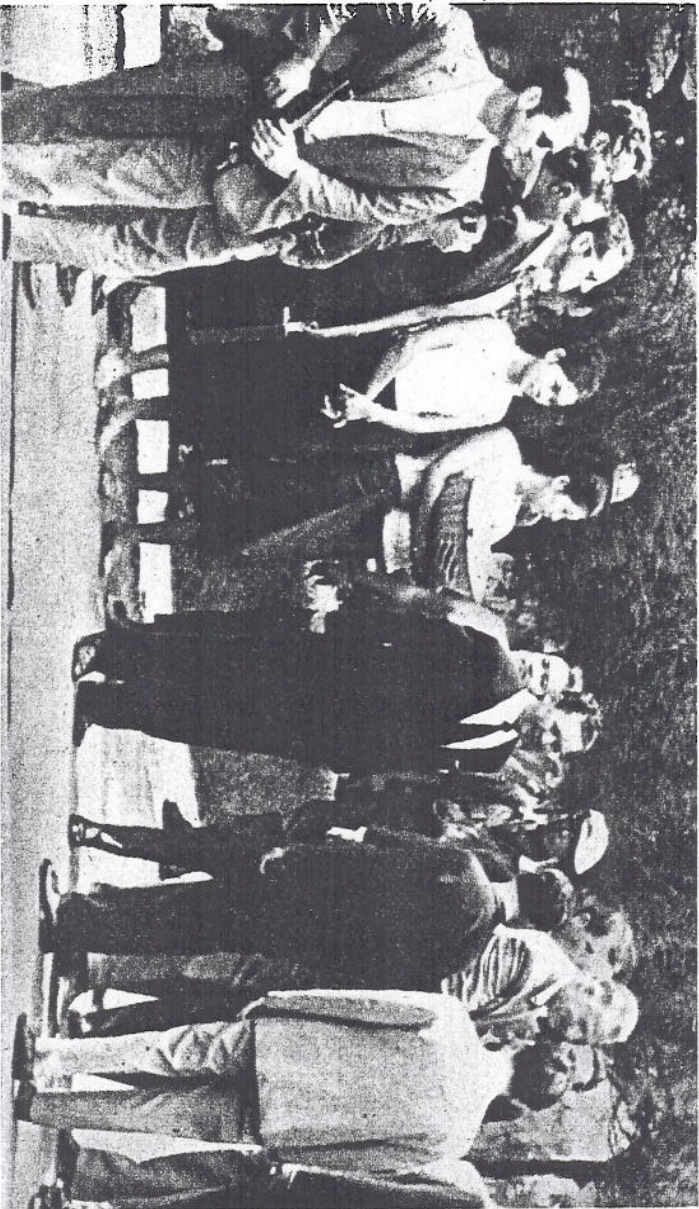
On camera

Consider the diligent watch over the Agnew apartment on the fourth floor in the east wing of the Sheraton-Park. Inside the seven-room layout—occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Agnew and daughter Kim, 15, one of their four children—is a television camera, its eyes open 24 hours a day. In the corridor leading to

continued



Well guarded: Vice President Spiro Agnew is nearly surrounded by Secret Service men on New York visit. Samuel Sulliman (far right) is chief of detail.



When Agnew visited Cambodian officials last year in Phnom Penh, one of the Secret Service guards (left)

openly displayed a submachine gun. The Vice President says he has great respect for his guardians.



Take no chances: when a man began shouting angrily at a golf tournament, Agnew guards quickly wrestled him down.

the suite are three more around-the-clock cameras. Under the rug in front of the door is a hidden buzzer that signals any pressure on the rug. These electronic and electric watchdogs connect with a next-door Secret Service apartment and, of course, agents are always on duty there. There are several other security devices that we can't reveal.

The Secret Service also has complete control over the public elevator in the east wing and can prevent strangers from using it when an Agnew family member is riding up or down.

Under the law, there is no specific provision for protection of a Vice President's wife, but it is known that Mrs. Agnew is always accompanied by at least one agent when she goes out. Similarly, it has been noted that whenever Kim leaves the Sheraton-Park it's in company with a woman officer of the Executive Protective Service, a branch of the Secret Service.

He respects them

The Special Agent in Charge of the Vice Presidential Protective Division is 40-year-old Samuel E. Sulliman of New Britain, Conn., a Bucknell University graduate with long experience in the Secret Service. He's seen duty on the White House staff, also in the Boston, Chicago and Washington field offices. Mr. Agnew has said on many occasions that he has vast respect for his Secret Service guardians and Mr. Sulliman is believed to have a bright future.

The most famous of Vice Presidential protectors is Rufus Youngblood, the

man who threw his body over Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson in Dallas when the assassin's bullets struck down President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Johnson was deeply impressed by Youngblood's selfless devotion and the agent rose to Deputy Director of the Secret Service.

On a number of occasions the Secret Service has intercepted letters threatening Mr. Agnew's life. This not only in-

tensifies the protection when he is in Washington. It also means that when the Vice President travels in this country or abroad, the Secret Service accords him the same advance planning it would give a Nixon trip. This involves inspection of hotels and other public places to be used and consultations with local police on such matters as routes of parades.



The family from left to right: son Randy, daughter Susan, daughter Kim, Agnew, wife Judy, daughter Pam. Parents and Kim occupy a seven-room hotel suite in Washington.

In many published photographs of the Vice President while out in the open, it can be seen that he sometimes is literally within a moving wall of Secret Service men. In addition to those who lurk in the woods when Mr. Agnew tours a golf course, agents trot along beside his golf cart. Earlier this year when golfer Agnew attended the Bob Hope Desert Golf Classic at Palm Springs, Calif., a man ran onto the 18th-green hollering that the tournament was "fixed." The Vice Presidential guards pounced on him and wrestled him to the ground—they take no chances on what may be a man's real intentions.

Well armed

When Mr. Agnew paid an official visit to Cambodian officials in Phnom Penh last year, one of the Secret Service men was clearly shown to be carrying a submachine gun. When on the move, the guardians also carry walkie-talkies so that those ahead along a route can keep in close touch with those around the Vice Presidential body. And the Vice President's car that carries Mr. Agnew about has some very special security features.

Standing with head bowed at a funeral or cheering at a football game, the intent men around Mr. Agnew are always seen concentrating on the surrounding crowd rather than the main event up front. The public may sometimes forget that a Vice President is only a heartbeat away from the White House but the professionals in the Secret Service never do.