

Back on Hunt, Testimony, Evvin Committee

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AGNEW ASKS HOUSE

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**FOR FULL INQUIRY
TO VINDICATE HIM,
CITES CONSTITUTION;
JURY TO GET U.S.
EVIDENCE TOMORROW**

Agnew's Lawyers And Justice Dept. Reach an Impasse

By JOHN M. CREWDSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Vice President Agnew asked the House of Representatives today to begin a full investigation of allegations that he accepted bribes as a state and local official in Maryland.

In a letter addressed to Carl Albert, speaker of the House, Mr. Agnew said that he was requesting the Congressional inquiry after being advised by his attorneys that "the Constitution bars a criminal proceeding of any kind" against the incumbent Vice President.

"This request," he said, "is made in the dual interests of preserving the constitutional stature of my office and accomplishing my personal vindication."

The Agnew letter was read to the House shortly after Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson announced an impasse in negotiations between the Justice Department and the Vice President's lawyers, designed to resolve the case against Mr. Agnew. Mr. Richardson said that the department's evidence concerning Mr. Agnew would be presented Thursday to a Federal grand jury in Baltimore.

Mr. Richardson's announcement came several hours after an early morning meeting between Mr. Agnew and President Nixon and after Mr. Richardson and Henry E. Petersen, his assistant in charge of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, briefed the President on the Agnew investigation.

Assurance Given to President

Mr. Nixon said later that the Vice President had personally assured him that he was innocent of any wrongdoing.

Mr. Nixon urged that the public "accord the Vice President the basic, decent consideration of presumption of innocence that are both his right and his due."

The Agnew move set off shock waves through the Capitol, where for the first time there was serious talk that Congress might face the possibility of impeachment proceedings against the Vice President.

The House leadership met to discuss the situation and what course of action to take. The talks continued into the night.

Republican Senators were hastily summoned to a caucus in the Old Senate Court Chamber, near the Senate Chamber, to be briefed by the party leadership on the Agnew letter and to be admonished to watch their comments about the Vice President's guilt or innocence in view of possible impeachment proceedings.

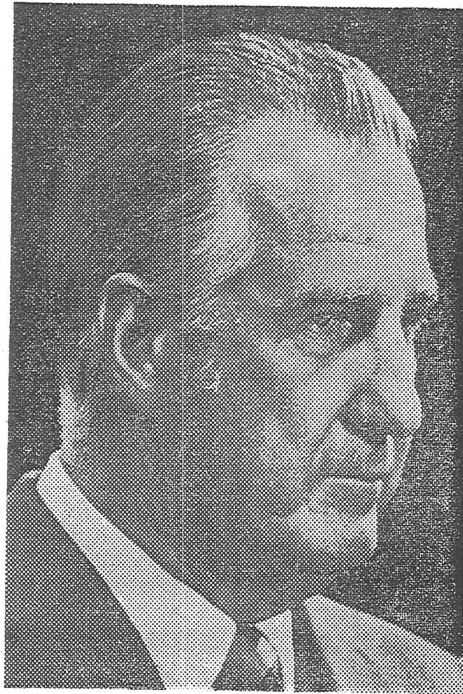
Senators Cautioned by Scott

Senator Norris Cotton, New Hampshire, chairman

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of the Republican Conference, said the minority floor leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, had cautioned his colleagues that, because there was "remote possibility" of impeachment proceedings, it "might be wise" for the individual Senators to "temper" their comment about the possible guilt or innocence of the Vice President.

The House has sole authority to impeach a Vice President—that is, to bring charges that could result in his removal from office upon conviction. The Senate

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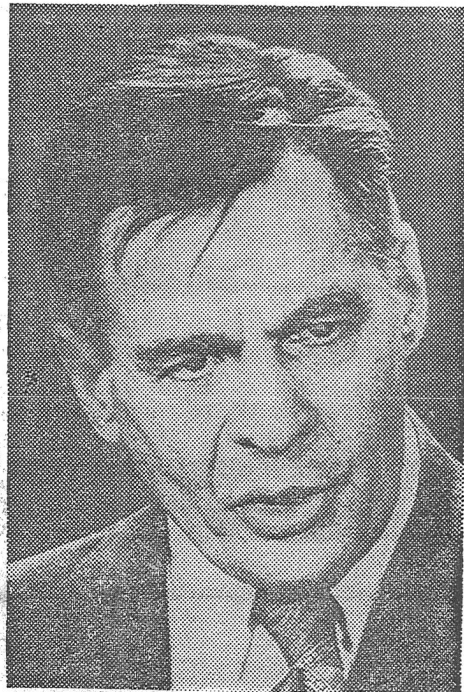
Vice President Agnew



President Nixon



Elliott L. Richardson



Henry E. Petersen