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Letter to the House

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—Following is the text of Vice President Agnew's letter read to the House:

The Honorable Carl Albert
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I respectfully request that the House of Representatives undertake a full inquiry into the charges which have apparently been made against me in the course of an investigation by the United States Attorney for the District of Maryland.

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

After the most careful study, my counsel have advised me that the Constitution bars a criminal proceeding of any kind—Federal or state, county or town—against a President or Vice President while he holds office.

Accordingly, I cannot acquiesce in any criminal proceeding being lodged against me in Maryland or elsewhere. And I cannot look to any such proceeding for vindication.

In these circumstances, I believe, it is the right and duty of the Vice President to turn to the House. A closely parallel precedent so suggests.

Almost a century and a half ago, Vice President Calhoun was beset with charges of improper participation in the profits of an Army contract made while he had been Secretary of State. On Dec. 29, 1826, he addressed to your body a communication whose eloquent language I can better quote than rival.

"An imperious sense of duty, and a sacred regard

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