

# Spiro is Nixon escape

BY BARBARA REYNOLDS

THE RESIGNATION of the Vice President may provide the perfect escape hatch for President Nixon to emerge from the cloud of

Watergate unseathed, said Atty. Thomas Todd, a constitutional law expert.

According to Todd, a former assistant U. S. attorney and professor of constitutional law at Northwestern

University, the scenario could unfold like this:

Nixon could appoint a successor to Agnew who is friendly to his administration. If Nixon later resigned, Agnew's replacement would

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## hatch, prof says

become President, a move that would serve as Nixon's insurance policy against his ever being brought to trial for alleged criminal activities.

NIXON's "caretaker" then would appoint an ally as U. S. attorney General, ensuring that the corruption in his administration and the President's own possible involvement would never be disclosed.

"Since Agnew, thru plea

bargaining, got off with a slap on the wrist, it all means that Agnew wins, the President wins. The only loser is the America public," Todd said.

Todd was firm in his belief that Agnew was made a scapegoat by the Justice Department to sacrifice the Vice President to save the President.

"I DON'T HAVE any particular love for Agnew," he said, "but the one thing that



THOMAS TODD

Agnew has been consistent in was his unyielding and unequivocal support for the President. That support, obviously, was not reciprocated."

Todd does not agree with such authorities as U. S. Atty. James Thompson that the punishment should fit the man, not the crime.

"It is not fair that if you are an important person, special concessions are made, but if you are voiceless and powerless the full fury of the law rains down," he said.