

VIP

A Little Help
From His Friends

By Maxine Cheshire

Frank Sinatra, in addition to passing the hat among friends to pay Spiro T. Agnew's legal fees, is also trying to line him up for a half-million-dollar book publishing deal.

Sinatra has personally been calling publishers in New York to gauge their interest in Agnew's memoirs. Sinatra's longtime lawyer and business associate, Mickey Rudin, has also been making calls.

As major stockholders of National General Corporation, Sinatra and Rudin first contacted the paperback publishing house of Bantam, a subsidiary of National General.

Sinatra also called Thomas Guinzburg of Viking.

"Mr. Sinatra called me as a friend, hypothetically, to ask me if we would be interested "if" Agnew were

to write a book," Guinzburg said this week. "I told him it would depend entirely on what kind of book it was. If he came clean and said what happened and why it happened, it would be a valuable book.

"But I don't think the American public is ready to buy a defense that says, 'I was just a good, honest Greek boy minding my own business when a millionaire came along and said to me, here's \$5,000 for grocery money, Ted.'"

The advance Sinatra and Rudin have been discussing with Guinzburg and other publishers on their list is reportedly \$500,000.

Potpourri

American Airlines' Bonnie Tiburzi, the first woman

pilot hired by a major U.S. carrier, has been furloughed because of the fuel shortage . . . It is only a coincidence and has nothing to do with the energy crisis, but the White House and the Washington Gas Light Co. sent out identical Christmas cards this year. Both feature the same circa 1848 scene along Pennsylvania Avenue, when gas street lights were first installed in front of the President's house . . . For Christmas gifts, Sen. Adlai Stevenson III gave all his staff, male and female, thermal underwear. Emphasizing the paper shortage along with the fuel shortage, Mrs. Stevenson wrapped the presents in old newspapers headlined with stories about the paper shortage and the fuel shortage.

© 1973 The Washington Post/Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, Inc.