

Agnew Gets Active Role On White House Council

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Vice President Spiro T. Agnew is stepping into a much broader role in the formulation of Nixon administration domestic policy as a result of the White House staff shakeup in the wake of the Watergate disclosures, sources said today.

President Nixon asked Agnew during an hour-long meeting yesterday afternoon, it was learned, to become active as vice chairman of the Domestic Council—the White House equivalent in the domestic field to the National Security Council in the foreign policy field.

John D. Ehrlichman, who resigned as an assistant to the President Monday amid charges of involvement in at least trying to cover up the

Watergate affair, has had a leading role with the Domestic Council as Nixon's chief aide for domestic affairs.

Officials disclosing Agnew's new role emphasized that he would not have duties equivalent to those Ehrlichman carried out.

Kenneth R. Cole Jr., long a deputy to Ehrlichman, took over day-to-day supervision of Domestic Council operations earlier this year as director of the council. Ehrlichman stepped out of that position to give more time to handling special projects for the President.

Nixon himself is chairman of the Domestic Council.

The council operations include drawing together analyses of problems and recommendations for meeting them from departments and agen-

cies, discussing these in council sessions with concerned Cabinet members and formulating "options" for action to be submitted to the President.

As one outgrowth of his increased involvement in domestic policy matters, Agnew presumably participated in a meeting the President held this morning with top economic advisers, believed to be looking toward tough new measures to try to bring inflation under control.

Last Dec. 14, when Nixon transferred operations of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations from Agnew's immediate supervision to the Domestic Council, the President noted that Agnew acts as vice chairman of the Domestic Council and participates in its decisions.