

SF Examiner
**Spiro Seems Due
 For '72 Dumping**

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WASHINGTON (NWS)—In the political pastures of the nation's capital, rumors about the imminent downfall of Vice President Spiro Agnew pop up as regularly as dandelions — and usually evaporate with the same wispy puff.

But this summer's crop of dump-Agnew rumors seems harder than ever, particularly since they are given corroboration by some of the most ardent GOP loyalists in the Congress.

"There's hardly anyone left among Republicans up here who think he'll be on the ticket in 1972," says one prominent U.S. senator. "At the White House, you don't get any more of that 'Spiro's our hero' business. Now, when his name is mentioned, you get a general scrunching of the shoulders."

The firm conviction that Agnew will be a one-term Veep began months ago when the Administration's negotiations with Peking were still being termed "Ping Pong diplomacy." The Vice President got together with the press to express his personal doubts about his boss' efforts to achieve detente with the mainland Chinese.

Backfire

Experts believe that Agnew's recent 31-day tour was ordered by Richard Nixon to keep his Vice President out of range of the public's eyes and ears while the President's trip to Peking was being arranged and announced.

If that speculation is true, the plan seems to have backfired because Agnew may have been out of sight but he wasn't out of words. When the President's plans for the

trip were made public — and were widely praised by even his most diehard political critics — the junketing Veep restricted himself to a grim "no comment."

But then, a few days later, he set off a typical Agnew-style furor by announcing on his arrival in Madrid that America's "querulous and complaining" black leaders had much to learn from some of the African autocrats he had been consulting with.

White congressmen were dismayed. "If he were not in the high office of the Vice Presidency of the United States," said one, "his remarks about everybody, including the black leaders of this country, would be taken as nothing more than the bad-mouthing of a redneck."