

# Agnew Spends 'Routine' Day at His Desk

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WASHINGTON, July 13—Vice President Agnew spent today what an aide emphasized was a "routine" day at his desk after President Nixon's hospitalization last night for viral pneumonia.

President Nixon's condition is not considered sufficiently serious to warrant Mr. Agnew's making any special arrangements or deviating from his daily routine, according to J. Marsh Thompson, the Vice President's press secretary.

Mr. Agnew was informed last night of the President's arrival at Bethesda Naval Hospital by Maj. Gen. John C. Bennett (retired), an assistant to Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff. The Vice President, according to Mr. Thompson, was "kept closely advised of the President's condition" today by both General Bennett and members of his own staff.

Vice President Agnew arrived in his office at the Executive Office Building shortly before 9 A.M., Mr. Thompson said, for a day of "desk work." This included answering invitations, staff briefings, and "the normal flow of paper," the aide said.

## Not Identified

Mr. Agnew remained in his office for lunch. During the day, he had at least two appointments with persons not on the staff. Mr. Thompson refused to identify these visitors. "It's just not our practice to

release a minute-by-minute description of his schedule," he said.

The Vice President had planned on remaining in Washington for the next week even before Mr. Nixon was hospitalized last night. He had been scheduled to attend several events connected with the visit next week of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the President of Pakistan. The postponement of the meet-

ings leaves Mr. Agnew without any public appearances for the next week.

Several events are being considered in the light of the postponement, Mr. Thompson said.

The Vice President has not talked to Mr. Nixon since last night, and Mr. Thompson said this afternoon that Mr. Agnew would probably wait to telephone until President Nixon's condition has improved.

## 6 McCord Letters Are Sold for \$950 At an Auction Here

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Six letters written by James W. McCord while he was working for the Central Intelligence Agency brought \$950 at an auction here last night after brief but spirited bidding by two veteran collectors.

To the winning bidder, Alan Ackerman, the letter may shed light on their author, a convicted participant in the Watergate break-in, and therefore on Watergate itself—"one of the most important events in American history," he said.

But Ron Von Klaussen, the losing bidder, said afterward that the letters, which contained oblique references to the receiver's "overseas friends" and "personalities" in Europe, might have been in a code that

disguised information potentially damaging to the United States.

"If I had won," Mr. von Klaussen said darkly, "I would have turned the letters over to someone in authority."

## Obscurity to Fame

The auction itself, sponsored by Charles Hamilton Galleries at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, was what some people would call a "media event." Bright lights from television crews illuminated the bidding on letters from a man who, a little more than a year ago, was totally unknown.

Watergate, in fact, furnished a link last night between the McCord letters and two documents from President Thomas Jefferson, said to constitute the first known use of "Executive Privilege."

These letters, cited Wednesday by Senator Sam Ervin, chairman of the Watergate committee, were sold for \$4,750 to Newton Chanin, a collector who bought them for his 15-year-old son, Alec.