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**SOME NIXON AIDES
HINT THAT AGNEW
OUGHT TO RESIGN**

**But Sources Say President
Has Yet to Decide About
Advising Vice President**

WARREN WON'T COMMENT

**Agnew's Spokesmen Deny
Published Report That He
Is Considering Quitting**

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 —
Some high White House officials
have been saying in private con-
versations in the last few days
that it might be best for Vice
President Agnew to resign and
allow President Nixon to choose
a new Vice President.

Sources in the White House
insist that no decision has been
made by the President regard-
ing any recommendation he
might make for his Vice Presi-
dent, but this city was thrown
into confusion today as reports
and rumors circulated about a
possible Agnew resignation.

The White House did nothing
to allay the reports. Gerald L.
Warren, the President's spokes-
man, had "no comment" to all
questions about Mr. Agnew
after discussing the situation
with Mr. Nixon.

He declined several oppor-
tunities to deny that the White
House was quietly urging Mr.
Agnew's resignation, and he
would not even say, as he has
in the past, that Vice President
Agnew enjoys the confidence of
the President.

Agnew Refuses to Comment

Meanwhile, reports of an
Nixon-Agnew conflict were
heightened when the Vice Presi-
dent's spokesmen denied, but
without allowing their names to
be used, a report in The Wash-
ington Post this morning that
Mr. Agnew, himself, was con-
sidering resigning.

The Post quoted one unnamed
Republican party leader as com-
ing away from a meeting with
Mr. Agnew convinced that he
would resign, probably this
week. The article, however,
quoted other unnamed sources

as saying that such an opinion
was incorrect.

Mr. Agnew refused to com-
ment on the report. He was
host at a luncheon today for
Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali
Bhutto of Pakistan. Leaving
Anderson House, a mansion
where the luncheon was held,
Mr. Agnew paused momentarily
and shouted to newsmen across
the top of his Cadillac limou-
sine, "As you know, it's my
practice not to comment on
stories from undisclosed
sources."

There was no doubt, how-
ever, that there was less than
unanimity between the White
House staff and the Vice Presi-
dent's staff regarding the
possibility that Mr. Agnew re-
ceived kickbacks from Mary-
land businessmen who had
contracts with the Government.

The White House position
seemed to be unfolding on two
levels. First, some high White
House aides have made it clear

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in behind-the-scenes conversa-
tions that they believe an Ag-
new resignation would be de-
sirable on the ground that Mr.
Nixon, already saddled with his
own troubles on the Watergate
case, does not need the addi-
tional burden of a Vice Presi-
dent faced with indictment or
impeachment, should it come
to that.

One of the President's assist-
ants was reported by sources
with excellent access to the
White House to have said that
Mr. Agnew must go. Another
aide was known to have made
suggestions to columnists that
the subject of Mr. Agnew's de-
parture from the Administra-
tion might be appropriate for
speculation.

On the second level, the
White House has done little to
lay aside the impression that
Mr. Nixon and his associates
consider the Maryland inquiry
involving Mr. Agnew to be se-
rious and that the White
House, consequently, does not
intend to make the strongest
commitment of support for
him.

'Dumping' Effort Charged

President Nixon and Vice
President Agnew last met on
Sept. 1, a two-hour session in
Mr. Nixon's office in which Mr.
Agnew's troubles were dis-
cussed. Mr. Nixon, in a news
conference a few days later,
expressed once again "my con-
fidence in the Vice President's
integrity during the period he
has served as Vice President."
The President's spokesmen
have carefully avoided going
any further in support of the
Vice President.

Mr. Agnew's associates, on
the other hand, say they are
certain that a "dump Agnew"
movement is under way in the
White House. Victor Gold, Mr.
Agnew's former press secre-
tary, charged in a column in
the current Newsweek maga-
zine that White House aides
were promoting John B. Con-
nally, the former Secretary of
the Treasury, as Mr. Agnew's
replacement as Vice President.

Marsh Thomson, Mr. Agnew's
current press secretary, had no
comment on the report that
Mr. Agnew was considering
resigning. Privately, however,
Mr. Agnew's aides insisted that
the report was in error and that
the source for it had misread
either an Agnew comment or
his mood.

"Right now he's in the Hor-
rible position of not being able
to fight back," said one Agnew
associate, suggesting that there

might be a conspiracy to "wear
him down."

"But the Vice President's
deepest inclination is to hit
head on, and bear it and get
it over with," he continued.
"He is insisting, as much as
humanly possible, to get it all
out. Devious strategy just
doesn't go with that. Resigning
doesn't either."

This morning, at the daily
White House press briefing,
Mr. Warren had "no comment"
on a host of questions about
the relationship between the
President and Mr. Agnew.

"I have seen and heard a lot
of reports," Mr. Warren said.
"I am just in a position where
I will 'no comment' on ques-
tions of that sort."

In the past, Mr. Warren has
said that Mr. Agnew enjoyed
the confidence of the President.
Mr. Warren was asked today
whether the Vice President still
enjoyed the faith and confi-
dence of the President.

"In all due deference," he re-
plied, "I am in a position where
I am 'no commenting' the en-
tire story."

His "position" was reached,
Mr. Warren said, after he talked
with Mr. Nixon this morning.

In the lengthy session with
reporters, Mr. Warren deviated
from his "no comment" posi-
tion only once. In the past, he
was reminded, he had denied
that the President had any con-
tingency plan for the selection
of a new Vice President should
Mr. Agnew resign.

"Will you continue those
denials today?" he was asked.
"I will continue those denials
today," he replied.

'Same Old Business'

After the Sept. 1 meeting be-
tween Mr. Nixon and Mr.
Agnew, Mr. Warren said the
possibility of resignation was
not discussed. Today he said
he had no reason to change
that statement.

Agnew associates charged
White House aides with circu-
lating the reports about resig-
nation.

"The White House people are
up to the same old business
they've been up to for a long
time."

However, there was confu-
sion among White House peo-
ple, too. Melvin R. Laird, the
President's chief domestic ad-
viser who once advised Repub-
licans in Congress to say noth-
ing about the charges against
Mr. Agnew until more facts
were known, said in Milwau-
kee that he had no information
about the report that Mr. Ag-
new was thinking of resigning.