

G.O.P. BLOC SEEKS ALBERT REVERSAL

14 in House Propose Unit to
Carry Out Agnew Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 —

Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee sought today to put pressure on Speaker Carl Albert to reverse his decision rejecting for the time being Vice President Agnew's request that the House investigate charges against him.

During a 26-minute meeting of the House, 14 Republicans on the committee, led by Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the senior minority member of the committee, introduced a resolution calling for the Judiciary Committee to create a nine-member subcommittee to investigate the allegation against Mr. Agnew.

Calls Request 'Preposterous'

There was no indication, however, that the Republican effort would succeed. The resolution was sent by the Democratic leadership to the House Rules Committee. Representative Ray J. Madden, Democrat of Indiana, who is the chairman, has denounced as "preposterous" Mr. Agnew's request for a House inquiry into allegations that he had received kickbacks from contractors in Maryland.

Republican Representatives introduced at least three other resolutions yesterday seeking to create varying forms of a House committee to carry out Mr. Agnew's request. All of them have been sent to the rules committee.

The Democratic majority on the Rules Committee is generally sympathetic to Mr. Albert's views, but it was not immediately clear whether the committee would officially kill or simply ignore the Republicans' proposals.

The Republican resolutions began materializing after Mr. Albert, an Oklahoma Democrat, announced yesterday that because Mr. Agnew's request for a House inquiry related to "matters before the courts" he would not take any action on the request "at this time."

Mr. Agnew personally delivered his request, in the form of a letter, to Mr. Albert and the other House leaders at a meeting Tuesday afternoon in the Speaker's Office just off the House floor.

Sympathy From Democrats

According to interviews with House Democratic leaders and their aides, the Democrats felt "sympathy" for the Republican Vice President's predicament even though they did not know Mr. Agnew well.

One Democratic participant told a friend that Mr. Agnew had said he was being "crucified" by news leaks about the investigation being conducted by the United States Attorney in Baltimore.

"I felt some sympathy for the Vice President," said one Democrat who attended the meeting but who asked not to be identified.

"He did say he didn't believe he could get a fair hearing before any grand jury or petit jury, the Democrat added. He said Mr. Agnew had expressed belief that he could get that kind of hearing from members of the House."

The House leadership apparently was taken by surprise by Mr. Agnew's request for an inquiry. A few of those summoned to the meeting thought Mr. Agnew was going to inform the Speaker that he was resigning.

According to several sources, the Democrats generally agreed after Mr. Agnew left that the House should do nothing on the Vice President's request, although one Democrat said "the question was what form 'nothing' would take."

Possible Referral

One possibility was that the Vice President's letter would be referred to the Judiciary Committee, whose chairman, Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, would announce that no action would be taken on the request.

That possibility was under consideration at late as yesterday morning. It was discarded after the Democratic leaders decided, as one participant put it, "we wanted no possibility that a court could construe that somehow the Judiciary Committee had assumed some kind of jurisdiction" in the case.

Such an argument, the Democrats said, could have been used by Mr. Agnew's lawyers to try to block action by a Federal grand jury, which began hearing evidence today in Baltimore.

Few on Floor

In contrast to the activity and the huddles of Representatives yesterday when Mr. Albert announced that no action would be taken on Mr. Agnew's request, only a few members were on the floor today when the House met briefly. Because of Rosh ha-Shanah no legislation was considered.

Instead there were a few brief speeches, including one by Mr. Hutchinson urging support for the Republicans' resolution calling for a Judiciary subcommittee to investigate the charge against Mr. Agnew and to report back to the House in three months.

"Through leak and innuendo the character of the Vice President is being maligned," he said. Mr. Hutchinson said that such an investigation by the House, if approved, "should not be considered as being in lieu of other judicial proceedings."