



AP Wirephoto

THE PORTRAIT OF SPIRO T. AGNEW
Quietly hung in the Maryland statehouse

Quiet Hanging of Agnew's Portrait

Annapolis, Md.

A portrait of Spiro T. Agnew of honor in the Maryland statehouse, but there was little of the public ceremony usually accompanying such events.

The large, dark oil painting of the former governor and vice president was spotted yesterday shortly before the governor's reception room was reopened to the public for the first time since the Christmas holiday.

The portrait of Agnew, who pleaded no contest to a federal tax law violation last October, was placed in the center of the east wall of the Governor Marvin Mandel's reception room adjoining Governor Marvin Mandel's office.

Agnew served as governor from 1967 to 1969, and his portrait had been scheduled to be hung in a public ceremony last February.

At the last moment, aides to the then-vice president took the painting away because Agnew reportedly was dissatisfied with the way the \$2000 work turned out.

The retouched portrait, which portrays Agnew in a serious mood, was returned to the statehouse earlier this month and locked in the basement until officials decided what to do with it.

Lieutenant Governor Blair Lee III said the picture was hung Wednesday morning in an informal ceremony.

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