

NYTimes MAY 23 1974
**PROSECUTOR TELLS
OF FEAR ON AGNEW**

BALTIMORE, May 22 (UPI)—According to the chief prosecutor in the Spiro T. Agnew case, one reason the former Vice President was allowed to plead no contest to reduced charges was fear that he might become President.

The no-contest plea ended the Agnew case quickly, whereas a full trial could have dragged on for months or years before final resolution.

"As Vice President, Mr. Agnew was next in line to become President, the United States Attorney for Maryland, George Beall, said yesterday. "If something happened to the President—death, assassination or resignation — Agnew would have become President.

"It was unthinkable by this office and the U.S. Justice Department to allow this to occur knowing what we did about Mr. Agnew's past," the prosecutor continued.

Asked if the possibility that Mr. Agnew might become President had led to plea bargaining that allowed Mr. Agnew to escape a possible prison sentence, Mr. Beall said, "That was one of the considerations—that was an important one."

Mr. Agnew pleaded no contest Oct. 10, 1973, to a single charge of income tax evasion and resigned from office. In return, Federal prosecutors agreed not to seek criminal indictments on allegations that he was involved in a kickback scheme.

Nixon Blocks Strike

WASHINGTON, May 21 (UPI) — President Nixon created Tuesday an emergency board to block for 60 days a strike by the Sheet Metal Workers International Union against a group of railroads. He signed an executive order establishing the board to investigate a dispute between the union and the National Railway Labor Conference.