

# Agnew Denies That He Got Leniency

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (AP)—Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, in a letter to The Washington Post, took issue with the newspaper's use of the word "leniency" in the headline of an article regarding his legal problems.

He also complained of being "harassed by the news media."

"Leniency in my case? That is to laugh," Mr. Agnew wrote.

"The whole story will be told later; meanwhile, please bear in mind that the bribery and extortion charges against me are unproved, that I denied them on national television and that I continue to deny them," said the brief letter, which The Post published today.

The letter:  
"For my decision not to contest a single tax charge, I have lost the right to practice my profession, lost a substantial pension, temporarily lost my right to vote, and have won the right to be harassed by the news media and be consistently referred to as a convicted felon who has admitted to all the acts I have specifically denied."

## Pleaded No Contest

Mr. Agnew resigned as Richard M. Nixon's Vice President last Oct. 10 and pleaded no contest to one count of income tax evasion. He was fined \$10,000 and put on probation for three years and was subsequently disbarred as a lawyer in Maryland.

In a reply printed beneath Mr.

Agnew's letter. The Post said, "Neither in the Aug. 23 news story nor at any other time has this newspaper suggested that the former Vice President has admitted to any criminal acts other than the tax charge to which he pleaded nolo contendere [no contest]."

The editor's note added, "This plea was described by the judge in the case as the equivalent of a plea of guilty, giving Mr. Agnew the same legal status as though he had been convicted."

The newspaper said that the word "leniency" had been "a reference to a direct quotation from an interview with former Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus in which he also referred to the 'special treatment' accorded to the Vice President."

## Role on Kentucky Tract

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Aug. 30 (UPI)—Mr. Agnew is acting as a developer's agent in an effort to sell a 1,600-acre tract of Kentucky land to oil-rich Arab investors, a newspaper here reported today.

The Annapolis Evening Capital said that Mr. Agnew was representing Walter Dilbeck of Evansville, Ind., a developer who has an option on 1,600 acres of undeveloped forest land near Eddyville, Ky., on the eastern shore of Lake Barkley.

The newspaper quoted Magdi el-Tanamli, a New York repre-

sentative of Kuwait International Investment Company, as saying that Mr. Agnew visited Kuwait twice, "once in late May and again in late June or early July."

"He met with some of our people there, and mentioned the land," Mr. el-Tanamli said.

Mr. el-Tanamli said that he looked at the land Aug. 3, "but frankly we have not decided on anything yet." He said that his company was looking at several investment possibilities in the United States, including the Kentucky site.

Earlier this month, Mr. Dilbeck showed a reporter for The Evansville (Ind.) Courier what he said was a four-year contract signed in Washington on June 30 with Mr. Agnew. It listed Mr. Agnew as a "real estate consultant" at a salary of \$100,000 a year plus expenses.

A spokesman at Mr. Agnew's Pathlight Import-Export Company office in Crofton, Md., said that Mr. Agnew would make no comment on The Evening Capital's report.