

# Are Those Guards Really Necessary?

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By Maxine Cheshire

Rep. Frank Moss (D. Calif.) has written a letter to the Comptroller General of the United States, Elmer B. Staats, challenging the legality of providing Secret Service protection and other government services to Spiro T. Agnew since his resignation.

Quoting the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, which authorizes such courtesies and protective measures for outgoing Presidents and Vice Presidents who are leaving office under normal circumstances, Moss has asked Staats to show how the law can be interpreted to include Agnew.

The Secret Service has declined to discuss the number of agents assigned to protect Agnew, although one source puts the number at a 21-man detail. The duty, ordered by President Nixon, is expected to continue for six months.

According to Moss, the language of Section 102 of Title 3 of the U. S. Code states that:

"The national interest requires that such transitions . . . be accomplished so as to assure continuity in the faithful execution of the laws and in conduct of the affairs of the federal government, both domestic and foreign. Any disruption occasioned by the transfer of the executive power could produce results detrimental to the safety and well being of the United States and its people."

Moss asked Staats:

"Is it the opinion of the Comptroller General that the Agnew resignation leads to the kind of transitional period contemplated by the statute? Had (Agnew) received a jail sentence, would the nation have provided protection in a federal detention facility?"

Moss protested that, in addition to around-the-clock Secret Service protection, Agnew has "use of government facilities, a staff of eight . . . all ancillary services, government limousines and drivers, plus use of military aircraft."

"All this represents a considerable expense to the American people," he wrote. "It is certainly conceivable that expenditures for such services . . . could actually offset or even make good whatever fines (Agnew) has thus far had assessed upon him by the courts."

When Secretary of State Henry Kissinger walked into the Sans Souci with NBC's Barbara Walters last Friday, it was just the moment for which humorist Art Buchwald had been waiting.

As Kissinger passed, Buchwald stopped him to exchange pleasantries.

Then, with all heads turned in their direction, Buchwald reached into his coat and pulled out a surprise. He handed the startled Kissinger two reels of tape.

The White House wasn't ignoring the demonstrations along Pennsylvania Avenue last week when passing cars were being signaled to "Honk for Impeachment."

Someone was keeping a eye on a stand where impeachment buttons and banners and bumper stickers were being passed out. When a car bearing Massachusetts license plates and a congressional sticker pulled up and collected a stack of anti-Nixon material, the license number was jotted down.

The car belongs to Sen. Edward M. (Ted) Kennedy's wife, Joan, but she wasn't driving. Mrs. Kennedy is in Europe and the young man behind the wheel was unidentified.