

LETTERS TO

f out 8/30/74

'Leniency' in Agnew Case

Subject: Aug. 23, 1974 article, "Agnew Case 'Leniency' Effect Eyed."

Leniency in my case? That is to laugh.

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.

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.

Spiro T. Agnew.

Crofton, Md.

Editor's note: 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). It should be noted, however, that 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 use of the word "leniency" in the headline in question is a reference to a direct quotation from an interview with former Attorney General William French Smith in which he also referred to the "special treatment" accorded to the Vice President.