

Original Missing

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Agnew Resignation Letter Purloined?

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Spiro T. Agnew did resign as vice-president a year ago last month—and the United States has copies of his letter to prove it.

But the letter itself, the original, is missing.

Officials do not know whether it has been purloined or simply misplaced, but they are trying to track it down.

State Department spokesman John F. King discussed the loss during a news briefing Friday. It came to light several weeks ago when President Richard M. Nixon's letter of resignation was sent to the National Archives.

It was discovered then that the archives had only a copy of the Agnew letter. The State Department likewise

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had only a copy, and the search was on. King said "it could have been either" stolen or lost.

King recalled that the Agnew resignation was addressed to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, as provided by law. However, it was delivered to him at his White House office, which he retains because he is also head of the National Security Council.

The State Department assumed that the original of the letter had been sent to the National Archives, as called for by the regulations. King said that if it ever was sent there, it cannot now be found.

Various government investigators have been trying for several weeks to find out where it is, King said. But he said their search has been hampered "because some of the people who handled the letter" have not been available for questioning as yet.