

Agnew House: From \$190,000 To \$325,000?

By Maxine Cheshire

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's house in the exclusive Kenwood area of Bethesda is up for sale with a \$325,000 price tag—\$135,000 more than he paid for it a year ago.

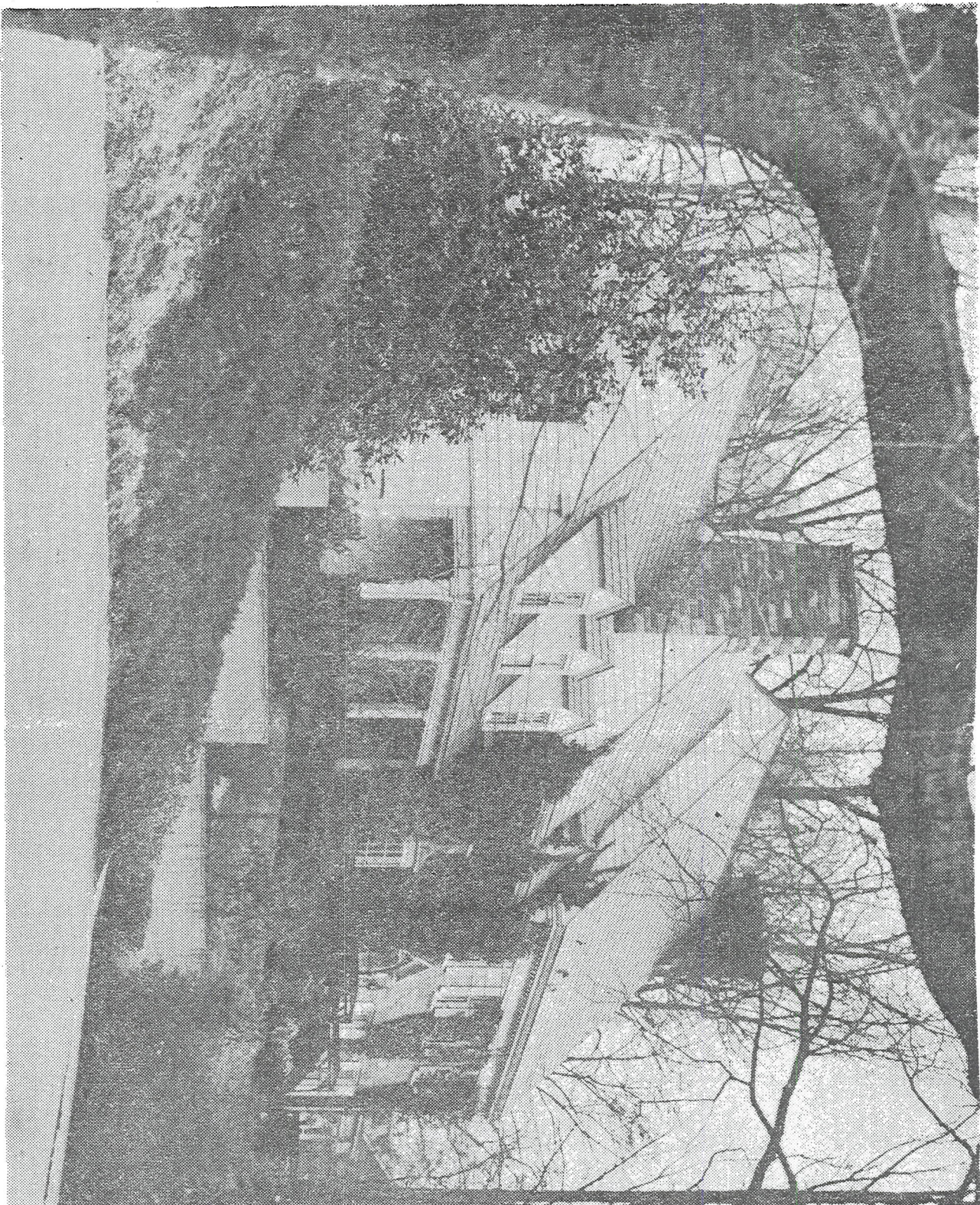
The difference apparently reflects the \$125,000 worth of "protective" improvements installed by the federal government as security measures before Agnew resigned last October.

Located at 6415 Shadow Road, the house was shown yesterday to the Australian embassy's newly arrived commercial minister, John T. Smith. Mrs. Smith said last night that "we have not settled" on the property.

The Australian government has been buying up suitable properties for its senior officials and last year purchased the Kenwood home of former White House aide H. R. (Bob) Haldeman as the residence for its financial minister.

The Agnew house, which quietly went on the market two weeks ago, includes such Secret Service-requested "safeguards" as a \$39,500 brick and redwood fence, \$15,979 worth of bulletproof glass, a new \$12,000 driveway and parking area, \$9,000 worth of indoor and outdoor lighting and a \$4,000 smoke detection system.

Other items listed in a report last June by the General Services Administration included expenditures for what appeared to be normal repairs, such as \$800 to repair and strengthen a "loose main stairway railing." Expenditures to construct a Secret Service headquarters in the Agnew house included such items as \$4,367 for airconditioning, \$503 for carpeting and \$200 for a



Associated Press

The house of former Vice President and Mrs. Spiro T. Agnew in Bethesda's exclusive Kenwood area.

new basement toilet exhaust fan and ceiling light.

Agnew will be permitted to keep any profit he realizes from the sale, a spokesman for the General Services Administration said last night. According to GSA information director Rich Vauter, Agnew is not required by law to reimburse the federal government for its expenditures on the Kenwood property.

"We will retrieve anything that is economically retrievable and reusable," Vauter said.

Except for electronic monitoring and security devices, however, Vauter said little else provided at government expense was likely to fall in the "retrievable and reusable" category.

An agent for the Shannon and Luchs real estate firm showed the Australians the Agnew house yesterday. With them was a representative of Burr, Moore and Pardo, the company that handled Agnew's purchase of the house last year.

The latter firm has an unusual agreement with the Agnews, according to information furnished to the federal grand jury which investigated Agnew's finances last fall.

A partner, Peter Burr, said he had given up his original commission in the Agnew purchase in exchange for a promise that he would handle any future resale.

The Agnews were not home yesterday when the house was shown. According to one of the real estate agents, "the guards" took care of showing the prospective buyers around. She did not indicate if "the guards" to whom she referred were Secret Service agents or someone else.

There has been criticism, on Capitol Hill and else-

where, of the fact that the Secret Service has continued to guard Agnew at taxpayers' expense since he pleaded nolo contendere to a criminal charge of income-tax evasion last fall.

Speculation that Agnew planned to sell the house went unconfirmed until yesterday. A neighbor said yesterday it was her understanding that the Agnews plan to move "in the spring."

Some reports indicate that he may leave the area entirely and move to California, where he is a consultant with an international marketing operation, J-W Industries. The firm is headed by Frank Jameson, Eva Gabor's current husband.

Please Stay on

Perhaps unconsciously emulating Queen Elizabeth, who regularly bestows honors on subjects on her birthday, President Nixon took the occasion of his own birthday last week to urge Walter Annenberg to continue in London as United States ambassador.

Annenberg and his wife, Lee, had been guests of the Nixons at a small private dinner at San Clemente. It was there that the President asked Annenberg to remain. The financier had expected to be replaced after the President's reelection in 1972 and has been continuing on an indefinite basis for months.

Reportedly, the White House had delayed replacing Annenberg to avoid having Chicago tycoon W. Clement Stone pick up an IOU for the job. Stone, one of the biggest contributors to Nixon in both his successful presidential campaigns, was saying publicly that he expected to be rewarded with an appointment to the Court of St. James'.

The Annenbergs, who turned their Palm Springs es-

tate over to the Nixons last week, returned to their house outside Philadelphia. They are expected to return to London soon.

"He will stay as long as Richard Nixon is President," a source close to Annenberg says. "Whether it is three years or three weeks."

Trickery

Two of convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt's children think he may have "tricked" them into moving out of the family home in Potomac.

Lisa, 23, and St. John, 19, are now living in a rented bungalow in Kensington. They moved recently after being notified by one of their father's lawyers that the Hunt house on River Road, "Witch's Landing," had been sold.

Last week, however, they told friends that their father has been living there himself since he was released from prison on bail pending outcome of an appeal. He went first to Florida to visit their younger brother, David, who is now making his home with his godfather.

Neither Lisa nor St. John had heard from their father until a few days ago, although he had been released Jan. 2.

The alienation within the Hunt family is ironic. Hunt, appealing to Judge John J. Sirica for mercy before sentencing, pleaded that his four motherless children not be left fatherless as well.

"My family desperately needs me at this time," he said, adding: "I have lost everything—friends, reputation—everything a man holds dear except my children, who are all that remain of a once-happy family."