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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON

Agnew Army Aide Draws

By Jack Anderson

Republican supporters of Spiro Agnew, who is already plotting a run for the presidency in 1976, are concerned that he is delegating too much power to Maj. Gen. John M. Dunn, now the Vice President's deputy chief of staff.

As Agnew's military aide, Dunn has risen rapidly in the Army ranks from colonel three years ago to two-star general last March. But it is Dunn's rise in Agnew's office that has made the Vice President's friends noticeably edgy.

They fear Dunn's career too closely resembles the spectacular success of Dunn's Army friend, Alexander M. Haig Jr., now President Nixon's chief of staff. The supporters view Dunn as a potential liability whose position gives the appearance that Agnew's staff is the mirror image of Mr. Nixon's.

Haig, a four-star general, has agreed to retire from the Army next month after a public outcry that the White House was becoming militarized. Dunn, however, failed to follow Haig's example, although his duties go well beyond the role of military adviser.

Now the second-ranking man in Agnew's office, Dunn is the Vice President's chief

adviser on foreign affairs. He took over this role two years ago from international affairs expert Kent Crane, who left in a huff after a "personality clash" with Dunn.

More recently, Dunn has taken charge of Agnew's office during the Vice President's frequent travels. Dunn also has become the close confidant of Agnew's most trusted adviser, Art Sohmer, the only man with more seniority in the vice presidential office.

Footnote: in his friendly Boston-Irish brogue, Dunn said he would give "serious consideration" to leaving the Army if his active military status became a serious liability to Agnew. "The Army has been good to me, but I also like working for the Vice President," he said.

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Concern