

Agnew Letter of Resignation Lost

Washington

The government is unable to find former Vice President Spiro Agnew's letter of resignation and does not know whether it has been misplaced or stolen.

State Department spokesman John F. King, when questioned on the matter yesterday, said, "It could have been either."

King said the fact the original copy of the letter was missing came to light several weeks ago at the time when President Nixon's resignation letter was being sent to the National Archives.

It was discovered at that time that the National Archives and the State Department had only copies of the letter — not the original itself.

After pleading no contest to tax evasion in October,

1973, Agnew resigned by letter to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as is prescribed by law. The letter was delivered initially to Kissinger at his White House office, which he retains because he is also head of the National Security Council.

The State Department assumed the original letter was sent to the National Archives, as called for under the regulations.

King said that if it was sent there, it can't be found.

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

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