

Scanlan's Story

Agnew Calls 'Secret Policy' Memo a Fraud

Washington

An alleged "confidential memorandum" linking Vice President Spiro Agnew's office with plans

to cancel the 1972 national election and repeal the Bill of Rights was denounced as a fraud by Agnew yesterday.

The Vice President said it is "ridiculous" for the editors of Scanlan's Monthly to believe that the document is genuine. It is being reproduced in the muckraking journal's August edition, to be published next Tuesday.

According to the memorandum, the Rand Corporation, a California research firm, agreed to a "judicious leak" of a study on cancellation of the election but did not feel any information should be made public on a plan for repeal of the Bill of Rights.

DEMONSTRATIONS

The document also contains paragraphs implying that the Nixon administration, using funds of the Central Intelligence Agency, would inspire demonstrations in support of the President's Indo china policies by construction workers in New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis and Seattle.

The memorandum, on Vice Presidential stationery with the government watermark, is dated March 11. In April rumors began spreading that the Rand Corporation was preparing a secret study on the implications of cancellation of the 1972 election.

The White House and officials of the California firm repeatedly have denied that any such study ever was undertaken or contemplated.

FORM

Agnew said in an interview yesterday, after he had seen a copy of the document that Scanlan's will publish, that it is "completely false." He said that the form of the memorandum, and the heading on the stationery, are different from those used by his office.

"My denial is unequivocal," said Agnew, "not only for that (document) but for anything else concerning that subject in writing, in conversation or in thought. You can't get much more unequivocal than that."

Sidney E. Zion and Warren Hinckle III, editors of Scanlan's, said in a telephone interview they first suspected the document was a hoax but became convinced after an investigation that it was genuine. They did not inquire about it at the White House.

Zion said he became convinced after leaders of the construction workers who demonstrated on Wall Street were invited to meet with the president.

He conceded that "some crazy maniac" could have obtained vice presidential stationery and dreamed up the memorandum, but said that it came to him from a source who had never misled him in the past. He would not disclose the source.

LABEL

The "memorandum" is labeled as "page 2 of 4 phases." It begins in the middle of a sentence about the alleged Rand study and stops in midsentence about CIA funding of the demonstrations.

Agnew noted that the heading on the document was "The Vice President." He said memorandum forms used by the previous Administration contained that heading but that his own have the words "Office of the Vice President."

New York Times

Compare with original story for dropped reference to Rufus Taylor, "an official of the C.I.A."