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- Spiro Links Watergate, Conscience

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — Vice President Spiro Agnew says he would resign if Watergate or any other matter made it impossible for him to serve in good conscience.

Agnew made the statement in response to a theoretical question put to him during a private meeting Wednesday with the Harvard Republican Club.

The question was: "If President Nixon is shown to have prior knowledge of the Watergate bugging, what course of action would you follow?"

Agnew's reply, as quoted by his office:

"Well, I wouldn't want to speculate on what I would do if that were shown to be true because it would depend on the details of what kind of prior knowledge he had . . .

"We have to go into the exact factual situation that exists as to what prior knowledge was and how it was received. I would not make a pre-judgment of what I would do. I'd have to wait and see what all the facts about the prior knowledge indicated.

"One thing is clear, and that is what I said before—if I found myself unable to continue on a basis of conscience I wouldn't stay here as Vice President and use

this as a pulpit to criticize the President. I would have to resign."

"This doesn't mean that I have any intention of resigning because I still have confidence that the President has not been involved in any way that would shock my conscience."