

# Agnew on Bugging--What He Would, Wouldn't Do

New York

Vice President Spiro Agnew, a potential occupant of the White House if President Nixon is forced to resign because of the Watergate scandal, said he "would never sanction listening in on somebody else's personal conversations," Time magazine disclosed yesterday.

Agnew said he found "the entire idea of bugging . . .

personally offensive," but he softened his remarks by noting that "wiretapping under court surveillance for specified matters of national security and against organized crime is a tactic that has led to some very good results."

The interview, by Time Washington correspondent Hays Gorey, is contained in the magazine's current issue.

The Vice President declared that "obviously, it is important to get the President before the people" to speak on the Watergate issue, but he thinks "a free-wheeling press conference would be a mistake."

He termed such a news conference an "inquisition with people screaming and yelling as they've been known to do (and) out of that volatile atmosphere comes an impression that's highly misleading sometimes."

He preferred what he called "a proper kind of interview" by journalistic "giants" from the various media in which "matters that are highly improper under the circumstances" could be screened out and concentration "strictly on information concerning the President's position."

Agnew expressed his "total confidence" that Mr. Nixon was not involved in Watergate and indicated that he could only imagine himself becoming President in 1977 if he decided to run and was elected.

He said if he were to become President he would continue Mr. Nixon's foreign policy which has been "superior," but he "would probably have some different things to try in the domestic field." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Nixon's mistakes regarding Watergate have been "minimal," the vice president said. The President apparently is as "human and fallible" as the rest of us, Agnew added.

Reuters