

Nixon's Words on Agnew

Camp David, Md.

President Nixon issued a statement expressing confidence in his vice president yesterday and flew to Camp David with a speech writer to prepare his own public defense in the Watergate case.

He is expected to remain at the mountain retreat through the weekend.

Mr. Nixon left the White House by Helicopter about an hour after Spiro T. Agnew appeared on national television to brand as a "damned lie" allegations that he was involved in a kickback scheme while Governor of Maryland.

STATEMENT

Earlier, White House spokesman Gerald L. Warren issued a statement for Mr. Nixon saying the fact that Agnew is under investigation by the U.S. attorney's office in Baltimore, is "no reason for the President to change his attitude about the vice president or his confidence in the vice president."

Mr. Nixon met for almost two hours Tuesday with Agnew to discuss the new development. 17 AUG

He was in his suite of offices in the Executive Office Building when Agnew held

his nationally televised news conference, but according to spokesmen, he did not watch it.

VACATIONING

Accompanying Mr. Nixon on the half-hour helicopter

ride to Camp David was Raymond Price, an adviser and chief speech writer, and a secretary. Pat Nixon and daughter Tricia Cox were already vacationing at the presidential lodge.

White House officials said the President would be preparing a major television address he plans to make to the nation proclaiming innocence of involvement in the Watergate affair and appealing for confidence in his leadership.

They said it will probably be made next Tuesday or Wednesday.

At the same time, a "white paper" now being completed by his lawyers will be issued, they said, responding to the specific charges of misusing power in attempting to cover the scandal.

United Press