

# Agnew Sees Nixon Today About Probe

By Lou Cannon

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Aug. 31—President Nixon will meet Saturday in Washington with Vice President Agnew amid reports of White House concern that Agnew may be indicted by a federal grand jury.

The meeting, scheduled at Agnew's request, is to bring the President up to date on the investigation, a spokesman for the Vice President said.

Deputy White House press secretary Gerald L. Warren denounced as "erroneous" and "false" speculation that Mr. Nixon would seek Agnew's resignation.

"This meeting should not be blown out of proportion," Warren said.

Warren said the session will be held in the morning in the White House. The announcement of the Nixon-Agnew get-together came after speculation on CBS television that the two would have a "showdown" to discuss the Vice President's future.

"Any discussion of resignation is erroneous," Warren said in responding to this report at the daily White House briefing.

In answering subsequent questions, however, Warren said he was speaking only for the President and did not know what issues Agnew would bring up.

In Washington, Agnew's press secretary, J. Marsh Thomson, explained that the meeting was not unusual.

"It has been a standing request," Thomson said. "They will both be here and they will meet. He will just simply bring him up to date. He has no intention of resigning and they have said the President has no intention of asking for it."

Privately, White House officials were even more adamant than was Warren at the briefing in insisting that Mr. Nixon would not seek Agnew's resignation.

One said that such a request would be a "prejudgment" of Agnew, who is under federal investigation for possible violation of bribery, tax fraud, extortion and conspiracy laws involving kickbacks from Ma-

ryland contractors. Agnew has not been charged with any crime. Another White House aide pointed to Mr. Nixon's own denunciation last week of the "outrageous" leaks of information about Agnew.

This aide said that the President would be violating his own presumption of Agnew's innocence if he asked him to step down.

Nonetheless, the Agnew issue was a major item of discussion this week in the San Clemente compound. There was a report that Mr. Nixon has asked for a "contingency plan" to fill the office of Vice President if Agnew should resign.

This was denied today by Warren—as it was at the White House when the same question was raised three weeks ago.

The 25th amendment to the Constitution provides that the President shall pick a successor, if the office of Vice President is vacant, subject to the approval of a majority of both houses of Congress.

Warren said that Mr. Nixon last talked to Agnew by telephone on Aug. 22 shortly after

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the President's news conference here. According to White House spokesmen, Mr. Nixon informed Agnew of what he had said and the two men chatted cordially.

They last met on Aug. 7 in the Executive Office Building five days after Agnew was informed that he was under federal investigation. This meeting was described as "acrimonious" by some White House aides, an impression that was deepened by the absence of an initial statement of confidence in Agnew by Mr. Nixon.

The day after the meeting Agnew called a press conference in which he asserted that a "Vice President can stand on his own feet" and denounced some of the accusations made against him as "damned lies."

The Vice President, press secretary Thomson said today, might want to tell the President what information his lawyers had uncovered since the Aug. 7 meeting "and be afforded the opportunity of presenting his side" of the case.

Agnew's lawyers have been conducting their own investigation in Maryland and have talked with engineers, architects and public works officials in Baltimore County during the last several weeks. The lawyers also say they have been probing how the federal prosecutors in Baltimore have conducted their investigation of the Vice President. They would not elaborate.

Much of the questioning here today about the Agnew meeting was based on the

premise that Mr. Nixon had abruptly changed his plans to spend Labor Day at San Clemente, where the temperature is cool and pleasant, in favor of a return to the Washington heat wave. But Alexander M. Haig Jr., the President's chief of staff, said as early as last Monday that Mr. Nixon would be returning to Washington at the end of the week. Agnew's request for the meeting was made on Tuesday.

"The President wanted to spend a full day in California before returning," Warren said in explaining Mr. Nixon's schedule, which called for him to land at Andrews Air Force Base at 1:35 a.m. EDT Saturday. "He felt that staff members and members of the press would appreciate a full day here. He decided to spend Labor Day weekend with his family at Camp David, and that's all there is to it."

Except for 1971, Mr. Nixon has spent all his previous Labor days since he was elected President at San Clemente.

In answer to other questions, Warren said he would "doubt very much" that Agnew would talk about resigning.

When he was asked about reports that there were "new dealings" on Agnew at the White House, he responded:

"I can't even tell you that there are new dealings."

Warren said at one point that the story about a meeting to discuss Agnew's resignation was "erroneous" and that a story that Mr. Nixon had cut short his visit for the meeting created a "false impression."

The White House also used the last briefing of Mr. Nixon's

California trip to reply to allegations by Rep. Jack Brooks (D-Tex.) that documents relating to President Nixon's homes had been altered before they were made available to the press Monday.

Without accusing the President of any illegality, Brooks, the chairman of a House subcommittee studying security expenditures at the President's homes, said that a survey had been backdated from its completion on Dec. 28, 1970, to the Dec. 15, 1970, date of the sales contract.

On the latter date the President sold 23 of the 29.5 acres of his San Clemente property back to the B&C Investment Co., a firm owned by his friends, Robert Abplanalp and Charles (Bebe) Rebozo.

In a "Dear Jack" letter to Brooks that was released simultaneously here and in Washington, presidential counselor Bryce Harlow said that the agreement on closing the transaction actually had been reached on Nov. 15. According to Harlow, presidential attorney Frank DeMarco asked the surveyor, when the survey map was being corrected for an error, "to date the survey contemporaneous with the sales agreement for conformity."

Harlow said there "was no significance to the date, or even the year of the transaction."

The property had been surveyed in 1969 and no survey was even required under California law.

Warren called the Brooks allegation "a monstrosity" and said it was "much ado about nothing."