

NYTimes SEP 22 1973
**NIXON AND AGNEW
HOLD SECRET TALK
FOR SECOND TIME**

**White House Aide Reports
Meeting Took Place at the
Vice President's Behest**

A BLACKOUT IS IMPOSED

**Agnew Lawyers Reported
in Intense Negotiations at
the Justice Department**

By **JOHN HERBERS**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21— President Nixon and Vice President Agnew met alone for more than an hour yesterday, heightening rumors and reports that an Agnew resignation was under consideration.

President Nixon's spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, who disclosed the meeting today, said it had been held at the request of the Vice President and that both officials had instructed their aides that "there would be no report on or discussions of the meeting."

Meantime, intense negotiations and meetings were reported under way in the Justice Department and among attorneys for Mr. Agnew, who is under Federal investigation into charges that he accepted kickbacks from Maryland businessmen. The Vice President has denied publicly any guilt in the case.

The nature of the discussions was closely guarded, but apparently concerned procedures on prosecution of the charges and the future of Mr. Agnew.

These discussions, along with the Agnew-Nixon meeting, increased speculation that Mr. Agnew has been under White House pressure to resign, even though earlier this week the President's spokesmen denied that any effort was being made to force the Vice President to step aside and clear the way for Mr. Nixon to appoint someone else to the office.

A Slight Deviation

Mr. Warren deviated only slightly from the prohibition of telling what went on in the

meeting. He said that Mr. Agnew "did not submit his resignation" and that the President and Vice President had agreed they and their staffs would not comment on or discuss in any way "rumors or stories based on unidentified sources" regarding the possibility of an Agnew resignation.

The meeting was held in the President's office in the Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House. It was the first time the two officials had held a substantive discussion since Sept. 1, when they met for two hours on the charges facing the Vice President. That meeting, too, was held at the Vice President's request.

This afternoon, three attorneys representing Mr. Agnew in the case were seen going into

Continued on Page 25, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 1

the Executive Office Building, apparently for a conference with the Vice President. They were Judah Best of Washington and Martin London and Jay H. Topkis of the New York law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkin, Wharton and Garrison.

Government sources have said that Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson has decided to let evidence against the Vice President go to the grand jury, but they stressed that this did not mean that the decision to seek an indictment against him had also been made.

There was unconfirmed reports, which White House spokesmen refused to discuss, that Mr. Agnew would resign only if he was assured immunity from prosecution. Dan Rather, quoting unidentified sources, said on Columbia Broadcasting System television last night:

"Mr. Agnew is convinced he has done nothing wrong. He does not want to quit, but has indicated he may be willing to do so if the President insists and if he, Mr. Agnew, can be assured that he will not face indictment or prosecution."

An associate of Mr. Agnew called reports of such a deal "preposterous."

Sources close to the Justice Department and the United States Attorney's office in Baltimore said that although there had been no recommendation to the grand jury by the Government the case has progressed so far in the press that any suggestion of dropping the charges altogether was out of the question.

But there were other alternatives, they said, including the seeking of a lesser charge.

In a related development, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, said that if Mr. Agnew resigned Congress should refrain from confirming a successor appoint-

ed by the President until there is a settlement of the constitutional issue raised by President Nixon's refusal to turn over to the courts tape recordings bearing on the Watergate case, which is before the courts.

"So long as the President himself is so clearly under the cloud of the possible disclosures on the tapes, grave questions exist as to the propriety of the President's choosing his own successor," the Senator said.

Agnew to Display Motto

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 (UPI)—Vice President Agnew is having a motto framed for display in his office. It says, "Hang in there, baby."

This was the caption of a poster presented to Mr. Agnew yesterday by Representative William L. Dickinson, Republican of Alabama, and Samuel L. Devine, Republican of Ohio, with signatures of about 85 other House members, including a number of Democrats.

The big poster, in addition to the motto, displays a photograph of a cat hanging desperately by its claws atop a cane pole.

Mr. Dickinson said he had removed the poster from his own office wall, had it mounted and collected the signatures after reading news of speculation, strongly denied, that Mr. Agnew had considered resigning.

Mr. Dickinson collected a large number of the signatures in the House Republican cloak room and later collected more at a regular breakfast meeting of the Chowder and Marching Society, an honorary Republican organization.

He and Mr. Devine then made an appointment with Mr. Agnew to present him with the poster. Asked later how the Vice President had responded, Mr. Dickinson said, "He was tickled."