

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—
Following is the text of a
statement today by Attorney
General Elliot L. Richardson
on the investigation of Vice
President Agnew:

Recently there has been
widespread and highly varied
public speculation regarding
both the substance and the
procedure related to the in-
vestigation of the Vice Presi-
dent. Although it would be
improper to discuss the sub-
stance of the investigation at
this stage, I feel it necessary
to clarify certain procedural
points in order to reduce un-
warranted and potentially
harmful speculation.

In the period of Sept. 12
to the present, meetings and
discussions have taken place
between myself, Assistant
Attorney General Henry E.
Petersen, and United States
Attorney for the District of
Maryland, George Beall, re-
presenting the Department of
Justice, and Messrs. Jay H.
Topkis, Martin London and
Judah Best, counsel to the
Vice President.

The Department of Justice
agreed to participate in these
meetings in response to a re-
quest by the Vice President's
counsel to discuss procedural
aspects of the case and op-
tions available to the Vice

President. The department did
so with a view toward the
possible prompt resolution of
problems which might other-
wise result in a constitutional
dilemma of potentially seri-
ous consequence to the na-
tion. These discussions took
place with the approval of
the President's counsel and
the President.

The discussions have, how-
ever failed to yield a satis-
factory resolution. It has
proved impossible, to this
point, to reconcile the Vice
President's interests, as rep-
resented by his counsel, with
the Department of Justice's
perception of its responsibil-
ity to assure that justice is
pursued fully and fairly.

On Sept. 3, I authorized
United States Attorney Beall
to present evidence regarding
the Vice President to the Fed-
eral grand jury sitting in Bal-
timore. It is the intention of
the Department of Justice
to present such evidence to
the grand jury when it re-
convenes on Sept. 27.

The grand jury will be
used, in accordance with
well-established practice, as
an investigative body. This is
a traditional function of a
Federal grand jury, whose
role, as representative of the
community, is to ensure the
fairness of the investigative
process.