

Our Man Hoppe

Will Mr. Agnew Get Resigned?



Arthur Hoppe

THE MAIL indicates there are, for inexplicable reasons, still some confusing questions in the public mind about Mr. Agnew's status. Here, then, are the clear, concise answers that should set the matter straight.

★ ★ ★

Q — Is Mr. Nixon standing behind Mr. Agnew in his hour of crisis? (Puzzled Reader)

A — Yes. As far as possible.

Q — Did Mr. Nixon try to force Mr. Agnew to resign? (Confused Housewife)

A — Mr. Nixon has made one thing perfectly clear: He's against anyone being such a cowardly rat as to resign under fire. Unless he's a Vice President.

Q — Why should Mr. Nixon want Mr. Agnew to resign? (Still Puzzled Reader)

A — To uphold the Constitution. Mr. Nixon's Justice Department, which says Mr. Nixon can only be tried by Congress, is trying to indict Mr. Agnew. Mr. Agnew says what's good enough for Mr. Nixon is good enough for him. So he wants to be tried by Congress, too. If the courts rule against him it will be a severe blow to the Constitution. Or at least Mr. Nixon's constitution.

Q — The press is being unfair to Mr. Nixon. He has clearly said Mr. Agnew should be presumed innocent. (Irate Republican)

A — Yes, he said that right after his Justice Department leaked word to the press that they couldn't reach an agreement with Mr. Agnew on exactly which crimes he should cop a plea to.

Q — Will Mr. Agnew resign? (Even More Puzzled Reader)

A — Only if he's out of his mind.

Q — Is he out of his mind? (Even More Confused Housewife)

A — Yes, if he thinks the Democrats in Congress will let him off the hook by giving him a fair hearing.

Q — Why does he want to be tried by Congress? (Puzzled Reader Whose Eyes Are Glazing)

A — It's either them or 12 honest men.

Q — Is Mr. Nixon in favor of a Congressional hearing for Mr. Agnew? (Bewildered Mother Who Just Came In)

A — Mr. Nixon has firmly said that cases involving corruption should be left to the courts, that we should stop wallowing in such matters and get on with the business at hand.

Q — He said that about Watergate, damn it! Are you claiming he wants Mr. Agnew's case tried in the courts? (Irate Republican Turning Purple)

A — Only if he'll cop a plea.

Q — But, seeing Mr. Agnew won't cop a plea, that means Mr. Nixon wants him tried by Congress, right? (Puzzled Reader Who Now Sees the Light)

A — Wrong. Impeachment proceedings would drag on forever. Besides, they could provide material for a new Theodore White book: "The Making of a Precedent."

Q — You're so smart, what does Mr. Nixon want? (Irate Republican Canceling Subscription)

A — A way out.

Q — Do you think Mr. Agnew should be impeached? (Former Puzzled Reader Now Manic-Depressive)

A — Yes. He has clearly refused to perform the chief duty of a man chosen for the second-highest office in this great land of ours.

Q — What's that? (Bewildered Housewife Turning to Fashion Section)

A — He's refused to be thrown to the wolves.