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Resignation Draws A Mixed Reaction

By Donald Baker
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"I'm a little ashamed," said Jean Armour upon learning of the resignation of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

"As Americans, I guess we all must accept part of the responsibility when this happens to one of our elected officials," said Mrs. Armour, an Oakton, housewife who learned the news about 4:45 p.m. upon emerging from a matinee performance at the National Theater here.

A group of senior English students from Crossland High School in Prince George's County, who attended the same show, placed most of the blame for the move by their state's former governor on President Nixon.

"I'm not surprised," said Bill Triplett, one of the students. "It was obvious that Agnew was being played as a diversionary tactic by Nixon. Sooner or later he (Agnew) would be found guilty."

"Nixon pushed it—through leaks from Justice," added Glen Barrentine. "It's wonderful," shouted Jason Janowiak. "I knew anyone connected with Nixon couldn't be all good."

Classmate Laura Nunemaker was "shocked," however, because "Agnew said he wouldn't do it resign)." Susan Valenta came as close to having a kind word as was offered by the students. "It may be true," she said, "but we shouldn't forget that Nixon has done a lot of good."

Delores Washington, a Government Services Industry employee, said she believes Agnew "should have done it a long time ago."

"And Tridky Dick with him," chimed in W.E. Pinson, a D.C. schools employee who was in the same bus queue at 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

"Right on," responded Miss Washington.

Victor Stagnaro, a vacationer from San Mateo, Calif., agreed with his wife, who said, "We've lost track of all this for a while. That's why a vacation is so good for you."

A man paused in the National Press Building lobby

to buy cigarettes, heard a radio report of the resignation, and said aloud, "Beautiful." The announcer then reported that the New York Mets had won the National League pennant, and the man added, "It's a beautiful day all around."

Sterling Levie, who works for the Maryland Highway Administration in Hagerstown, was disappointed that Agnew "didn't go through and fight it." Levi told a friend, Randolph Hein, a sheet metal worker from Hartland, Wis., that kickbacks have been a custom in Maryland for years.

Hein said, "I think both of them should be taken out."

Gene Clair, of Boston, who voted for Nixon last year as "the lesser of two evils," said "you can lay a lot of the blame at the doorstep of Richard Nixon. I'm disappointed in a system that lets this go on. But nothing excuses malfeasance or misfeasance."

Toni Kress, a lobby bartender at the Statler Hilton Hotel, squealed, "He did! Good," upon hearing the news. "Now if they can just get the other guy to do it too."

Mrs. Harold Smith, who had accompanied her husband to Washington from Rochester, N.Y., for the acupuncture treatment, wondered "why they bring up part of history. This happened years ago. People can change."

Hendrik Hoestra, a professor from the University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, "got the impression that there was too much truth in the accusations, and that the President didn't support Mr. Agnew. The publicity had not been good for your country."

Harry Nurkin, a hospital administrator from Asheville, N.C., called the resignation "unfortunate" but said it was "better for the country than the divisiveness of fighting it through."

Josephine Pelton of Chicago felt "very sad, for his family that he got himself into such a mess, and for our country most of all."