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**A Nation Reacts: Regret,
Glee and Plea for Reform**

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

A nation without a Vice President responded yesterday to Spiro T. Agnew's resignation with expressions ranging from glee to regret, and with calls for reforms and a restoration of confidence in government and the political processes.

Politicians, editorial writers and private citizens across the country described Mr. Agnew's resignation and admission of criminality as a personal tragedy.

But while there was wide disagreement over the leniency that will allow Mr. Agnew to avoid imprisonment, there was a general consensus that he had taken the appropriate course in ending the case swiftly and sparing the country the uncertainties of a protracted court fight.

Interviews with scores of people in more than a dozen cities by correspondents of The New York Times suggested that, while Mr. Agnew's case is viewed as a symbol of wider corruption, the process that brought him to justice was itself an important step in the restoration of confidence.

Sympathy Expressed

Many politicians, particularly Republicans, expressed sympathy for Mr. Agnew while keeping an eye on possible successors to the Vice-Presidency.

Others, particularly Democrats, emphasized that President Nixon's selection of a nominee to submit for Congressional approval posed a challenge and an opportunity to restore confidence in a badly shaken government.

Private citizens generally were skeptical.

"If we are going to avoid this happening again, we are going to have to vote into office individuals with the integrity, stability and stamina to fight off the constant temptations thrown in their faces," said Mrs. Raymond Grove, a St. Paul housewife, who added: "Fat chance!"

Numerous political figures, including Republicans, said the Agnew episode—coupled with the Watergate scandal—would hurt the Republican party and its candidates for state and national office.

"It's staggering," said Robert E. Hughes, the G.O.P. chairman for Cuyahoga County, which

'Enormous Impact'

"It will have an enormous impact on Ohio and the country. The people are going to be even more cynical about public officials, especially incumbent elected officials of both parties. It will accelerate the trend toward ticket-splitting."

In Illinois, former Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie, a Republican, said: "I is too early to tell what effect the resignation will have on the Republican party, but it is already apparent that the scandals have dried up contributions."

Other political figures said the Agnew case would not affect the party on state or local levels.

Mrs. Mary Crisp, a Republican National Committeewoman from Arizona, said: "We will have to promote our own good government in our own state. At the national level, it will be hard to counter. However, I don't believe our political system is going to fall apart."

In Michigan, top Republican leaders tended to minimize probable effects on next year's elections, but the state G.O.P. chairman, William McLaughlin, said, "A lot will depend on the person the President nominates to succeed to the Vice-Presidency."

Calls for Reform

In several states, there were calls for legislative reforms on codes of ethics for public officials and financial disclosures in political campaigns.

Gov. Christopher S. Bond of Missouri urged the passage of a series of state bills dealing with conflict of interest among public officials, lobbying, campaign financing and codes of conduct.

Mrs. John Riecker, a Republican National Committeewoman from Michigan, said, "Not

only the party but all public officials must be willing to make everything they do an open book, not to keep any of their actions or dealings secret."

In Massachusetts, Gov. Francis W. Sargent said the key to overcoming public skepticism with the political process lay in reforming fund-raising activities. He said he favored legislation that prohibited campaign contributions by state employees and lobbyists and limited personal donations to \$500.

Newspapers ranged in tone from hostile to sympathetic. But there was a consensus that the nation's interests had been best served by Mr. Agnew's decision to end the case quickly and decisively.

View From Boston

The Boston Globe said it had "little sympathy with those who have preferred that the Government seek to prosecute this case to the full extent of the law." The Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto Bees—a California chain of newspapers—said a prolonged court fight would have been "intolerable" for a "nation already shuddering over Watergate."

The Des Moines (Iowa) Register said Mr. Agnew "deserves the nation's gratitude for patriotically removing himself from office."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer described the resignation as "an ignominious creep-out for a man who had proclaimed total innocence, who declared he would not resign even if indicted," and went on: "Agnew's quitting adds the most lurid smear to the ugly page of history so far written by the Administration of President Richard M. Nixon."

Private citizens were frequently harsh in their comments on Mr. Agnew's resignation.

"It's the best news since V-J day," said John Morton Blum, a professor of history at Yale University.

"I still think Agnew should have gone to jail," said George Hardnett of Detroit. "Most any common person would have to go."

Gracelia Peterson of New York City said: "There shouldn't be a double standard. It wasn't fair to give him the right to bargain on one count and allow serious counts to go untried."

While most politicians were reserved in their comments, Senator William B. Saxbe, Republican of Ohio, who is customarily outspoken and seems even more so since announcing last week that he would not seek re-election, said the Nixon Administration was "one of the most inept" in history.

"They just couldn't plan a scenario as ridiculous as what's been going on, and if it keeps on they're going to have to get them clown suits."