President Reportedly Took Initiative on Agnew Talks

BY JAMES M. NAUGHTON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11—President Nixon reportedly initiated the secret legal negotiations that led yesterday to the sudden resignation of Spiro Agnew from the Vice-Presidency and his dramatic conviction on federal income tax evasion.

Authoritative Government officials said today that Mr. Nixon had prompted the first step toward Agnew's resignation.

"Continued From Page 1, Col. 2"

and to restore "confidence that our system works."

He defended the arrangement that he had approved, Mr. Agnew to avoid imprisonment—which avoided the public an early trial, Mr. Nixon had "moved thoughtfully, in an effort to resolve the constitutional issues involved."

Mr. Nixon solicited suggestions on a Vice-Presidential nominee from a wide assortment of political and civic figures:

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Continued on Page 27, Column 1

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Meanwhile, sources close to Mr. Agnew said today that, as early as Sept. 13, he had informed the Justice Department through his lawyers that he was prepared to resign in return for an end to the Government's criminal prosecution of him.

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