

## Public Reaction to Agnew Talk Is Found to Be Mostly Negative

By United Press International

Greg Icard of Buffalo who is unemployed, summed up public reaction to Spiro T. Agnew's speech Monday night. "I didn't believe a word," Mr. Icard said. "If he wasn't guilty, why did he resign?"

Reporters across the nation asked persons at random what they thought of Mr. Agnew's speech, in which he denied accepting kickbacks and said he resigned for the good of the nation and his family.

The overwhelming reactions were disbelief and sarcasm. A few, however, said they still backed the former Vice President.

"I've never seen him so humble and I doubted that he had it in him," said Tom Butler, 44 years old, an insurance salesman in Chicago. "But I don't believe a word of it. He was just trying to get out as best he could and leave everybody with a clean taste in their mouths."

"At least he didn't say, 'You won't have Agnew to kick around any more,'" said Walley Coffey, a bartender in Seattle. That was an allusion to President Nixon's statement that the press would not have him to kick around any more after he was beaten in the California gubernatorial race in 1962.

Carl Maxey of Spokane, Wash., a lawyer, saw a similarity between Mr. Agnew's speech and Mr. Nixon's Checkers speech, in which Mr. Nixon, then a candidate for Vice President, denied that a political

fund had been set up for him. "His (Agnew's) hope apparently was if people believed Checkers, they'd believe this," Mr. Maxey said.

"It turns out the law-and-order Administration belongs in jail," said Michael Terry, a high school senior in Louisville. "I felt sorry for Agnew tonight, but what the heck. If I did what he did, I'd be up the creek. What makes him better than me?"

In his speech, Mr. Agnew said the news media had carried inflammatory and inaccurate accounts of the proceedings against him. "The news media doesn't have anything to do with his troubles," said Doris Vogel, a housewife in Columbus, Ohio. "He made his own troubles and the news media just reported them."

But George L. Rines Jr., a salesman from Forest Hill, Md., said he was still 100 per cent behind Agnew. "Part of the trouble is you people (news media)," he said.

Rupert S. Huntington, a paint salesman from Annapolis, Md., also supported Agnew. "What he was trying to point out was that he's the scapegoat," Mr. Huntington said.

Miss I. Lower of Towson, Md., had another reaction.

"I'd much rather someone just came up and said, 'I'm innocent' or 'I'm guilty' and sum it up and be brief. They say so much. And none of it's important."