

# Letters on Agnew cost court clerk her job

Associated Press

PADUCAH, Ky.—The resident clerk of U.S. District Court has been fired after writing letters to newspapers contrasting the penalties incurred by an 18 year old shoplifter with those levied against former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

Mrs. Ernest W. Rivers submitted her resignation yesterday after a request for it from the three federal judges who sit in the Western District of the court.

She said U.S. District Court Clerk August Winkenhof of Louisville told her the three judges — James F. Gordon, Rhodes Bratcher and Charles Allen — were unanimous in their decision.

Gordon said the letters, printed in the Paducah Sun-Democrat and the Louisville Courier-Journal, were considered "a reflection on the

integrity of the federal judiciary."

In her letters, Mrs. Rivers noted that a young woman had been given a 30-day jail sentence and a \$200 fine in Paducah Police Court for attempting to steal a \$1.99 bottle of hair lightener and observed:

"I am appalled . . . to think that a sentence of this kind could be imposed upon a young woman when at the same time a man who was elected to the second highest office in the country gets away with bribery and extortion and Heaven only knows what other crimes, and the Attorney General of the United States asks us to have 'compassion' for him.

"Apparently it is all right to steal if you just steal enough so that you can bargain with the Department of Justice and plead no contest.