

G.A.O. Lists \$100,000 Agnew Costs

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (UPI) —The General Accounting Office disclosed today that at least \$100,000 had been spent to provide offices, aides and other privileges for Spiro T. Agnew since he resigned as Vice President.

The G.A.O. said the estimate included costs only through Dec. 4 and did not include the salaries of Secret Service agents who have provided round-the-clock protection for Mr. Agnew since he left office Oct. 10.

In a preliminary report to Representative John E. Moss, Democrat of California, the G.A.O. said there was no legal basis for assigning agents to Mr. Agnew, and questioned the funds used to pay the aides.

Mr. Moss said the help for Mr. Agnew "appears to have been done under the specific order of the President." He said the Senate had granted some staff and franking privileges to Mr. Agnew, but "that had a time limit, and it has expired."

Controller General Elmer B. Staats said that attempts to elicit more information had been blocked, at least temporarily, by the White House, and that the Secret Service had refused to answer a request for detailed data.

A White House spokesman, Gerald L. Warren, said that no effort had been made to withhold any information and that

the G.A.O. had been asked to put its requests in writing as "standard procedure to make sure there was no misconception."

Mr. Nixon, Mr. Warren said, ordered Secret Service protection for Hubert H. Humphrey six months after he left the Vice-Presidency in 1969 and the protection Mr. Agnew received had been similarly motivated.

Mr. Warren said that Mr. Agnew was working in a restored Federal building overlooking Lafayette Square across from the White House and that the offices in which he had been putting his official papers in order since he resigned had been unused previously.

Personnel Costs

The preliminary report said that salaries for personnel assigned to Mr. Agnew from Oct. 10 to Dec. 4 totaled \$89,132.75.

The G.A.O. added that the cost of the offices, across the park from the White House, was \$2,075 a month.

In addition, \$287.12 was spent for free mailing privileges; \$877.61 for office supplies, and \$960 to move various files from the Executive Office Building.

After Mr. Agnew resigned, President Nixon ordered continued Secret Service protection for an unspecified length of time.

But the G.A.O. said Mr. Nixon's instructions "may be immaterial since we are not aware of any specific authority of law for providing Secret Service protection for former Vice Presidents."

The General Services Administration, according to the report, has paid for the office space out of money available to operate public buildings.

"Whether such funds may be properly expended for purposes related to Mr. Agnew's current activities would depend on the nature of those activities," the report said.

"If these activities are for the benefit of the Government, rather than for Mr. Agnew's personal benefit, then it would appear appropriated funds could be available for such purposes."

The G.A.O. said the question of whether appropriations were "properly available" for the staff depended on what functions they were performing.

"In our opinion, the appropriation would not be available for expenditures for staff to assist the former Vice President to perform tasks unrelated to his previously specially assigned functions," the agency said.

The G.A.O. said that a reply from Mr. Nixon's chief of staff, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., required clarification and that attempts were still being made to arrange a meeting.