

# Papers Donated By Agnew

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has donated 600 boxes of official and personal papers from his years in public office to the University of Maryland with the stipulation they not be opened until January, 1977.

The collection was picked up at Agnew's office on Jackson Place, NW, Wednesday and taken to an undisclosed location on the College Park campus. Requests to photograph the boxes were denied.

Eventually the papers will be transferred to the Theodore R. McKeldin Library there and placed in a "secured room."

A university spokesman said the contents of the boxes will not even be catalogued until January, 1977. A preliminary inventory was possible, however, because the boxes were marked on the outside with various descriptions.

Approximately 225 of the boxes are alphabetical subject files; 14 were marked "referral forms sent to agencies and responses"; and one was marked "county executive file," apparently referring to Agnew's years as County Executive of Baltimore County.

Markings on other boxes indicated they contained such things as tapes, invitations, chronological files, photos, vice presidential reception medals, speeches, news clippings, campaign and research files, gifts and plaques, news summaries and domestic affairs briefing books. One bore the notation "investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy."

Most of the boxes were described as letter size, about 15

by 12 by 10 inches. No value has been placed on the papers, but the university will have them appraised at a future date.

Virginia Carter, university publications editor, said it was assumed that "this is the bulk of the collection" of papers from Agnew's years as county executive, governor of Maryland, and Vice President of the United States. The gift was unsolicited, she said, and apparently was Agnew's idea.

The former Vice President, who resigned last October after pleading no contest to a charge of income tax evasion, cannot claim a federal tax deduction for the gift. Congress rewrote the tax laws in 1969 to prevent such deductions.

Moreover, the gift means that his family will not inherit the papers, which tax experts say might have considerable value if sold after his death.

A school spokesman said the dollar value of the gift apparently had been determined, but school officials were not told what it was. The boxes included papers covering Agnew's nearly five years as Vice President, two years as Maryland governor and four years as Baltimore County executive.

The boxes were delivered to the school library Wednesday when Agnew, who resigned last Oct. 10, officially closed his government office on Jackson Place NW, one block from the White House. It also coincided with the end of his government franking privileges.

A school spokesman said the Maryland Board of Regents voted recently to accept Agnew's gift. But it was not known when Agnew made the offer.

The spokesman said it was "not unusual" for a public official who donates papers to set a certain date when they can be made public. "How he happened to choose that date, I don't know," the spokesman said.