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# It's OK for Agnew

Washington

Federal officials disclosed yesterday that former Vice President Spiro Agnew has been granted permission to keep a gun for personal protection, despite his criminal record, because he is not regarded as a "menace to society."

Rex D. Davis, director of

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said Agnew would be given "relief" from federal laws that restrict possession of firearms by persons who have been convicted of felonies punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

Agnew resigned after pleading no contest last Oc-

tober 10 before a U.S. District Court in Maryland to a federal tax evasion charge. He is on unsupervised probation.

Davis said it had been established "to my satisfaction" that Agnew's record and reputation is such that he "will not be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety, and that the

granting of the relief will not be contrary to the public interest."

The waiver also removes restrictions on Agnew for the acquisition, transfer, receipt or shipment of firearms. The 1968 Gun Control Act makes it unlawful for a convicted felon to own a firearm, but the legislation also specifies provisions for

## to Have a Gun

relief.

Davis said Agnew asked for relief shortly after his resignation "because he wished to keep a gun for personal protection after he had seen trespassers on his property and received some threats."

Agents of the bureau then conducted an abbreviated

investigation to determine whether, if Agnew were permitted to own a gun, he would be a "menace to society," the principle criterion weighed by the agency in granting relief.

Davis also said that ownership of a firearm by Agnew would not conflict with Maryland law, another consideration in granting relief.

The former vice president will be allowed to own or possess firearms under the ruling so long as he complies with state and local laws, Davis said.

He added that "such relief is frequently granted" by the bureau, a Division of the Treasury Department.

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