

Agnew: A Watchful Eye on the Rising Price of Sugar

By Maxine Cheshire

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, who used to work in a supermarket, is once again keeping an eye on grocery prices. This time, it's the cost of sugar he's watching.

Reports of his involvement in the international sugar trading market—circulating here and in New York for several weeks—are confirmed by friends and former aides, although little is known about his operations as a "business consultant" or who his clients are.

Agnew's former press secretary, J. Marsh Thompson, said that he first heard about his ex-boss' interest in sugar and "other commodities" from foreigners calling him trying to find out how to get in touch with Agnew. One prospective client was Japanese, Thompson said. The other was Korean. Both were referred to Agnew's office in Crofton, Md. Thompson, who has had little personal contact with Agnew in recent months, has heard nothing else, but other sources say that Arab clients may be involved as well.

A secretary who answered the phone for Agnew last week refused to discuss his sugar dealings. "I'm sorry," she said, "I don't believe we have any information for you on that."

Another Agnew friend, a magazine editor who asked not to be identified, said last week that he sat in Agnew's office recently while the former Vice President discussed a potential sugar deal involving hundreds of

thousands of tons that were "waiting on a dock somewhere ready to be shipped."

The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing and Consumer Relations, which has scheduled hearings for Dec. 9 on the recent dramatic increase in sugar prices (retail prices quintupled this year), also has expressed an interest in what Agnew is doing.

"Not because we think he has done anything wrong," said General Counsel John F. O'Neal. "But there are bound to be some questions raised about exactly what he is doing. There are rumors everywhere, but so far, no real facts."

An ABC spokesman says that Julie Nixon Eisenhower was "definitely" offered a regular spot on the network's new morning show, "AM America," which debuts on Jan. 6, but she turned it down.

A former aide to her father who was at San Clemente recently says that her husband, David, did not want her to take another job in addition to the one she has with The Saturday Evening Post. ABC producers haven't give up. They are still trying, one staffer said

last week, to persuade Mrs. Eisenhower to commit herself to some kind of regular "guest" spot.

Mr. and Mrs. Manola Sanchez, the \$20,000-a-year butler and cook who were recently taken off the government payroll by Congress, may soon leave San Clemente. Sanchez recently told former White House Communications Director Kenneth W. Clawson that he and his wife "had not had a single day off in six years." The Sanchezes managed to save much of what they earned after taxes while they were with the Nixons and are considered to be financially well off.

Nixon press spokesman Ron Ziegler, who left his family when he went to California to perform "transition duties," plans to return here for Christmas. Nancy Ziegler has two brand-new, his-and-hers husband-and-wife tree ornaments, custom-made by an Alexandria artist to represent the Zieglers with their tennis racquets. . . . Attorney Robert Herzstein recently sent the following message to Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.-N.Y.): "Have you, as a liberated woman, ever considered calling yourself 'Congressperson Holtzperson'?"

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