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Spiro Will Deny It



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FORMER VICE PRESIDENT Spiro T. Agnew is reportedly negotiating a contract with British comedian Terry Thomas for a series of four 90-minute television interviews.

The concept apparently occurred to Mr. Agnew on learning that Richard Nixon would receive more than \$600,000 for a similar series of interviews with David Frost, former star of the British hit comedy show, "That Was The Week That Was." In addition, Mr. Nixon is expected to receive \$2 million or so from his book in which he once and for all proves his innocence again.

A friend said that when Mr. Agnew read of Mr. Nixon's sudden ascension from poverty and obscurity to fame and fortune, he threw down his newspaper, clapped his hand to his forehead and cried out aloud, "What did I do wrong?"

After only a few minutes thought, the friend said, Mr. Agnew called his lawyers and told them to open negotiations.

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AS YET, however, no price has been agreed to. Mr. Agnew's supporters contend that even though he was only a Vice President, he should receive at least as much as Mr. Nixon.

"After all," said one who asked to remain nameless, "Spiro resigned from high office in at least as much disgrace as Dick did. Don't forget that Spiro was actually convicted (of one count of tax evasion) and Dick was never found guilty in a court of law. Spiro's got a record to stand on!"

Another of Mr. Agnew's many fans argued that if Mr. Nixon was getting

\$600,000 to deny all, Mr. Agnew should receive even more as he had even more to deny.

"All Dick Nixon can claim to be innocent of is suppressing evidence, tax fraud, suborning perjury, graft, illegal wire tapping and a couple of conspiracy counts," he said.

"Do you realize that when Spiro Agnew was sentenced, the Justice Department made public 40 pages of additional charges detailing some 50 counts of bribery, tax evasion and extortion?"

"Boy, when it comes to denying accusations, Spiro could use up ten 90-minute interviews!"

All that's holding up the deal at this point, insiders say, is one hard-hearted television producer who keeps chewing on his cigar and muttering that \$600,000 is too much money. "For that kind of dough," he says, "a guy ought to confess."

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BUT IN Mr. Agnew's behalf, let it be noted that he, like Mr. Nixon, betrayed the public trust. He, like Mr. Nixon, resigned rather than face the charges against him. He, like Mr. Nixon, fled Washington repudiated and reviled. He, like Mr. Nixon, has ever since maintained a stoic silence, avoiding the spotlight and waiting for the whole thing to blow over. And he, like Mr. Nixon, now stands ready to deny all.

Surely he, like Mr. Nixon, is therefore entitled to fame, fortune and whatever other rewards lie within the power of a grateful nation to bestow.