

SPIRO AGNEW

Wed. Aug. 8th 73

In the midst of widespread insinuation and inuendo - Spiro Agnew speaks out - as no doubt you've heard by now. The Vice President branding as "damn lies" - published reports that he was somehow involved in a Maryland ~~kick~~ kick back scandal. This in a press conference today in the executive office building, right next to the White House.

Spiro Agnew saying he originally intended to remain silent - following his earlier statement asserting his innocence. He had felt at the time - he continued - that "the traditional safeguard of secrecy" would ~~not~~ prevail until he was fully cleared. But since then he noted - "defamatory statements" have been leaked to the press - by sources said to be "close to the ~~federal~~ federal investigation."

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" Well, I have no intention of being skewered
in this fashion " - said the Vice President. "And
since I have no intention to be so-skewered"- he
went on - "I called this press conference; to label
as false and malicious and scurrilous - these
rumors, these assertions and accusations that are
being circulated." ¶ Whereupon - the floor was open
to newsmen.)

^ For the next half hour - the Vice President
field~~ed~~^{ed} questions dealing with virtually every phase
of the Maryland case; also, ranging far and wide over
additional subjects - including the possibility that he
might have considered resigning. "I have not" -
said he - adding: "I have no expectation of being
indicted - and I am not going to face any kind of

contingent thinking on this ":

The ~~Co~~ Vice President also told of a meeting yesterday - with President Nixon; saying the President had ~~expressed~~ expressed his full confidence in him - just as he himself has "total confidence" in the President.

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But in the present context - said Spiro Agnew - it really isn't that important, what a President says; the office of Vice President is important enough - that a man has to stand on his own two feet.

And he added: "I'm not looking around to see who's supporting me - I'm defending myself."

On the economic front - a concerted drive to "sell" the President's Phase Four wage and price controls. This including an address today - by Commerce Secretary Frederick ~~Dumuck~~ Dent in Pittsburgh; and another by Agriculture Secretary Earle Butz - in Miami. Both stressing the need for Phase Four as "a period of time in which other economic forces - can work effectively to slow down inflation." Both stressing that Phase Five - will then be a "phase out" of all controls.

While back in Washington - an overall view ^{came} from Marina Whitman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. "It's still true" - said Mrs. Whitman - "that we are in for a period of price increases - which are more than we want or want to tolerate. But the picture ahead is more hopeful" - she continued; "and ^{once} ~~wants~~ through this rather difficult

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period - it is reasonable to assume the economy will improve."

PARIS

Coming soon to the U.S. - the French and British supersonic transport - the Concord. So announced today - by the ~~the~~ French firm Aerospatiale. Company officials saying the Concord will make its first U.S. appearance - at the Inauguration of a new Dallas-Fort Worth airport September twenty-second. Adding that the needle-nosed jet - will do "in-flight maneuvers and supersonic demonstrations."

As you perhaps know, Air France is also planning to use the Concord - on its regular Paris to New York run; thereby cutting in half - its present seven hour trans-Atlantic flight time. *How soon? Oh -* ~~But that - we are told -~~ *maybe* ~~still nearly~~ two years hence.

From the ~~League~~ League of Red Cross Societies
in Geneva - another report today on that all consuming
drought in Northern Africa. Officials saying that
thirteen million people - half of them children - are
now threatened with famine. Adding that "the specialized
assistance of the Red Cross - is thought to be of
critical importance in this emergency situation."
Insisting, however, that only the U N - with the help
of member nations - "can hope to find a satisfactory,
long term solution - to the problems and the human
suffering caused by the drought," right across the
edge of the Southern Sahara.

IBAGUE

Evagay

A weird and grizzly court case is reported today from Ibague, Colombia. The defendants - nine gauchos or cowboys; employed at an isolated ranch - on the frontier down there; ^{They are} accused of inviting sixteen Indians to shar^e a Christmas dinner - whereupon they slaughtered them. ~~att~~. These charges freely ~~admitted~~ admitted. The defendants pleading, however, they were unaware that it was a crime to kill Indians. Thus - winning ^a acquittal. Except that the public outcry was then so ~~great~~ ^{that} great federal authorities today order^{ed} ^{Putting} a new trial. The Ibague nine - once again in deep trouble.

PENTAGON

For the sixth straight month - the U S Army has failed to achieve its recruiting goals. The July figures announced today - showing only a seventy-six percent success rate. And more than a third of these new recruits testing out in the lower intelligence range.

The Navy, the Marine and the Air Force, by contrast - all at or near their recruitment goals.

JACKSONVILLE

From Jacksonville, Illinois ^{comes} a report ~~today~~

telling of the formation of a new night patrol. More than a hundred local cattlemen taking turns at guarding their stock ~~are~~ against cattle rustlers. Officials are stressing, however, - this is not a vigilante action. The cattlemen ^{are} ~~are~~ barred from carrying guns; limited solely to calling in the authorities - if they spot anything suspicious.

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SAN FRANCISCO FOLLOWING JACKSONVILLE

A related item - from suburban San

Francisco; where a chap by the name of King Tanaka

-- was barbecuing three thick succulent steaks in his

back ~~g~~ yard. King stepping inside for a moment-

to get a drink. Returning just in time - to see three

women running off with his ^{three} ~~to~~ steaks. ^{Bill would you say} The King was

trumped by three queens? ~~Or are you throwing~~
~~No doubt, Bill, a serious~~

~~in your hand?~~ ~~Or~~ Are you holding a Joker?
~~experience~~

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EARTH ORBIT

In the flight of Skylab 2 - another photo sweep today across the face of the earth; from the Pacific Coast of Oregon - all the way to the Atlantic Coast of Brazil; much of which, unfortunately - was obscured from view; especially - the U.S. gulf coast.

"Nothing but clouds and brown" - observed science

pilot Jack Lousma. And he ^{Lousma} ~~then~~ added; - ~~with remarkable~~
~~restraint:~~ "doggone it - shucks," and s-l-u-t-m,