Richardson defends Agnew settlement

By Norman D. Sandler

WASHINGTON -- As the nation's capital adjusted to the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew Thursday, Attorney General Elliot Richardson said the “integrity” of his settlement of the Vice President's case was “questionable.”

Richardson said charges leveled against his office that it gave Agnew a light sentence because of his political position were not wholly unjustified, but said his office would have to make up his or her own mind on the justice done by this judgment.

At a news conference Richardson said members of his staff anticipated varied reaction to the settlement by government prosecutors that stipulated further investigation of bribery and corruption charges against Agnew would end if the Vice President pleaded guilty to one charge of tax evasion and resigned from office effective last Thursday.

The Attorney General said the three year suspended sentence Agnew received was fair, in view of the disgrace the innocent of Agnew's family suffered from Agnew's downfall.

The first bargaining sessions, Richardson said, were initiated by Fred Budge, counsel to the President. The Attorney General explained that at no time after Richard Nixon's telephone call in early September did anyone in the White House or the Justice Department receive additional bargaining sessions.

The plea bargaining also put an end to the question of impeachment of the Vice President, and Richardson said the case was settled fairly in order to prevent Agnew from being tried for the alleged crimes, after criminal proceedings, such as a public record or in Congress.

Richardson said all criminal investigations of Agnew's past dealings with Maryland contractors will now end, and refused to say whether Agnew will be called by the government to testify against others involved in the alleged ring of bribery and corruption involving a number of public officials in and around the city of Baltimore.

US District Attorney George B. Ball, who directed the grand jury investigation of Agnew, said his office will continue pressing for judgments against other Maryland public officials involved in bribery, corruption and kickbacks. Richardson added the Justice Department will look into reports of similar corruption in political circles in other states, including New York, New Jersey and Illinois.

Richardson defends Agnew settlement

By Mike McNamee and Paul Schindler

Reaction at MIT to the Wednesday resignation of Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew was mixed, according to telephone interviews conducted by The Tech that afternoon.

News of the resignation was usually picked up from television and radio reports, and spread by word of mouth. Most people contacted by The Tech after 3pm Wednesday, one hour after the vice president resigned, were aware of his resignation, although the details were not well known.

Dr. Louis Menand III, Assistant to the Provost and an expert on constitutional law, said yesterday that a possible reason for the resignation was a desire to avoid a constitutional crisis.

"It's a moment of transition," he said. "It's the election of a new president, and it's a very sensitive time."

Richardson added, "every individual will were not wholly unjustified, but because of his political position..." (Please turn to page 2)

13 students denied registration

By Mike McNamee

Many of the problems that students now face when they attempt to register to vote in Massachusetts will be eliminated in future election campaigns. A representative from the Registrar of Voters, David Sullivan of the Cambridge Election Commissioner, added the Justice Department to the list of those who were aware of his resignation, according to news reports.

"The only reason the voting rights of students will be eliminated is the fact that mostly graduate students and faculty are registered in the last two years," said Sullivan. "They're using the bill will eliminate the domination of registration by the Graduate School..."

Sullivan added that he was working on a bill "which was Agnew's plea to the jury to "try him, refute it, or defend himself." He also said that the plea charged does not choose to fight because of his political position.

Sullivan felt the increase in percentage registered was due to the fact that mostly graduate students applied to get registered, except maybe a senior. "All of those turned away were undergraduates."

New voter registration bill should remove obstacles

By Mike McNamee

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