

Guilty and Gone

While most Americans are stunned at former Vice President Spiro Agnew's resignation, there must be one who can have a sigh of relief: Richard M. Nixon.

Yet a bitter taste will remain. For the resignation only partially cleansed the tarnish of the Nixon Administration's Republican image. The darkest is still to come, with the upcoming decision on the Nixon tapes.

We believe it was "the better part of valor" for the former "veep" to resign—not out of sympathy for the man as a representative of American government—because of the humiliation of his position as a man.

For such a proud man, his hasty exit was truly a reversal of form, but his realization of "Who needs me around here?" was the only logical question a collared politician could come up with. Nixon had already given him the kiss of death in last week's Presidential press conference.

By informally admitting he was guilty of the 38 pages of crimes the Justice Department had on him and realizing he could save the nation years of trouble and money, he took down one roadblock to answering the Nixon tapes dilemma.

Unfortunately, for the United States, his resignation temporarily halted the formal clash between press freedom rights as given in the First Amendment and the right to a fair trial as provided by the Sixth Amendment. With his resignation the courts dropped the subpoenas against members of the press whom Agnew had charged with providing his trial and sentencing in the press.

Although the courts have never confronted the free-press-fair trial conflict head-on, they have repeatedly upheld the right to prior restraint—most notably in the 1971 Pentagon papers ruling. Sooner or later, we must have a decision on this issue.

His resignation does show that the former "veep" wasn't "railroaded" by the press because the Justice Department had plenty of evidence to prove press accusations weren't trumped up. And it leaves unchallenged the 5-4 Supreme Court ruling in the Brandsburg case which can compel reporters to divulge sources who have been possibly involved with criminal activities.

Replacing Agnew won't take long (says Nixon), but there is incredible speculation in Washington for possible new faces. Among the names most commonly mentioned are John Connally, Nelson Rockefeller and Ronald Reagan.

Of the three, we would endorse Connally because he's Nixon's Mr. Clean, he carries himself well with the public and shows a certain ability to function wisely on his own. Undoubtedly, we are unable to research his full background to search for those "hidden skeletons" said to be hanging around his financial closet in the oil business. This is Mr. Nixon's task, as it should have been with Agnew.

In lieu of events within the recent months, the public really has no choice or voice in a replacement, since the decision is in the hands of a particularly irate Democratic Congress.

Nixon survived the Agnew problem and he'll probably survive the tapes decision, but America will be slow in recovering from its Agnew and the havoc indiscriminate politics has wrecked.

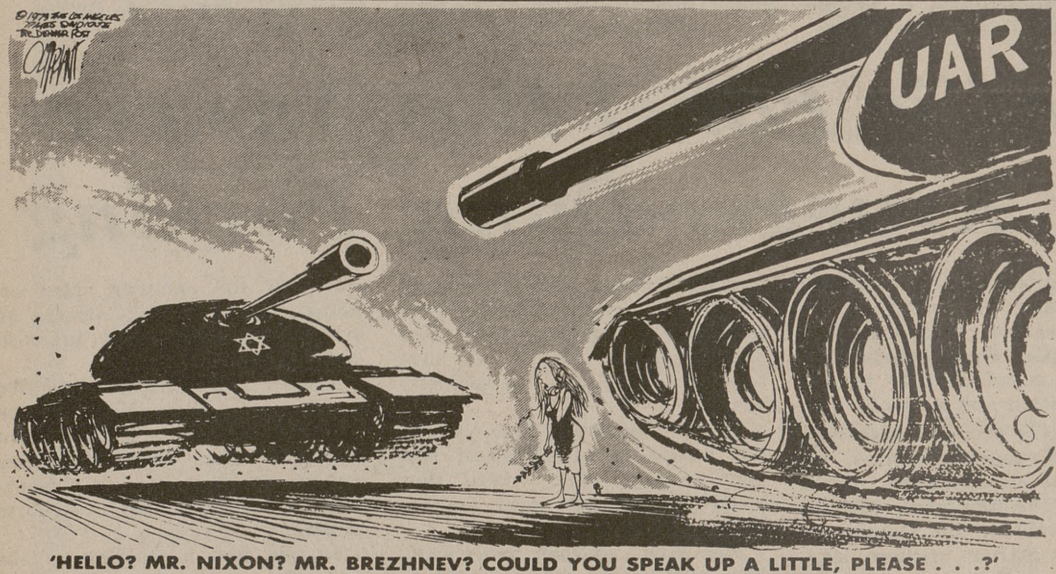
Consumers Beware

The Better Business Bureau of Brazos Valley has issued an alert that local residents—particularly students and professors—may be approached by a salesman taking orders for hand calculators which he cannot deliver.

Some 300 students and professors in Austin have lost \$154 each in such transactions and the salesman is reportedly headed toward Bryan-College Station.

The company which makes the calculators indicated the salesman operating in the Austin area has no connection with the firm and cannot deliver the promised product.

Anyone approached individually to buy a calculator should contact BBB at 823-8148.



The Battalion

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Student and Government Help—

Problem Solvers Named for Apartments

By BARB SEARS

Many student tenants feel powerless in a disagreement with landlords. They are frustrated when trying to deal with the manager, for no matter how often they complain, they never get any results. Most students don't have a thorough knowledge of the laws and don't know how to obtain a solution to their problems.

There are many levels of assistance available in this community from student-oriented groups to the courts. A tenant with a problem is first advised to consult the Student Government Fair Housing Commission (FHC). This group is composed of students who have experience in dealing with apartment complaints. It has a background of legal knowledge, as well as access to a lawyer for advice on difficult or unusual situations. Feel free to call any of the names listed at the end of the column.

The FHC has published both a review of the apartments in the area (based on a survey of off-campus students last year) and a legal guide for tenants. Apartment managers of the area have

all had some kind of contact with the FHC and many times a phone call or a letter is sufficient to clear up a problem. In fact, there are several managers who call on the FHC to double-check apartments when student tenants move out. That way, the Commission will be familiar with the situation should a dispute arise.

Many students have been assisted by the Better Business Bureau. The BBB has several full-time staffers who have handled apartment complaints for a long time.

For those living in the University's Married Student Housing, there is an Apartment Council elected from the area, and representatives present suggestions to the University. The FHC also has two members who live in the Married Student Housing.

If it is a health or sanitation problem, the County's Health Office can be contacted by calling the County Court House. One tenant who complained of the smell and litter from a poorly maintained garbage area was able to get the situation corrected in this manner.

Another government office that might be useful is the Public Works Office of the city. It is supposed to check houses and apartments to insure that local housing code are followed. For instance, roofs and windows must be weathertight and without cracks and holes; plumbing fixtures must be in good sanitary working condition; doors to the outside must have screens except when the building has central air conditioning and heating; there must be heating units capable of maintaining a room temperature of 70 degrees in rooms and bathrooms. There are a number of other such requirements which any buildings constructed after the creation of this housing code must follow. The Public Works Department is available to investigate and enforce these regulations.

Some managers simply need to be contacted by a lot of tenants. This can be done informally or by establishing a Tenants Union with a large membership of apartment dwellers.

Recently, one person was disturbed over the lack of response from the manager of the French

Quarter. Apparently, there is a parking lot in such bad shape that it cannot even be used. In one of six months of complaints, nothing has been done. The tenant wanted to have a renter and demand that the parking lot be repaired.

Although the idea might have been a good one, it could not be successful unless a large group of the tenants organized and carried through on it. This is because the landlord might respond by agreeing to fix the parking lot, he might instead decide to evict the "trouble-maker" for non-payment of rent. If there were a lot of tenants involved, however, it is unlikely he would take action against them.

Should none of these paths solve the problem and if the tenant is confident that he is in the right, he may want to go to the Small Claims Court. Students who have had to wait more than a month for their security deposit refund have an excellent case under the new law which requires refunds within a month after the tenant moves out.

To file a complaint in the Court costs \$5.00 and one doesn't need an attorney. The place to go is the third floor of the County Courthouse. The judge of the Court in this area is well-known for his fairness in apartment disputes.

Fair Housing Commission:
 Kevin Rogers 693-355
 Harry Sundberg 693-382
 Jackie Heyman 846-982
 Marvin Bridges 846-987
 Carol Silverthorne 845-712
 Chris Lawson 845-413
 Molly Brewer 846-013
 Barb Sears 846-013

Listen Up

Agnew: A Crook is a Crook

Editor:

Former President Harry S. Truman was once quoted as saying, "If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen."

In resigning his vice-presidency, Spiro Agnew not only got out of the heat, but also restored some credibility to the second-highest

office in the land. Visions of power, wealth and grandeur may on occasion cloud a man's image as he sees himself, but a crook is a crook! Agnew should never have jeopardized himself and the vice-presidency by accepting his election as this nation's number two man.

In the quest of power, some men can rationalize almost anything to themselves. Men of this thinking haven't the right to hold any public office or responsibility. Let us hope that criminals will always be refused the right to public office.

Steve Ueckert '76

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Boeing Computer Services, Inc., is concerned with general business and financial systems, medical systems, automated manufacturing techniques, inventory management, scientific and engineering problem solving techniques and computer operating system.

We have also started programs on: 1) people movers to help unclog traffic problems in cities; 2) hydrofoils to move people and freight over water faster; 3) reduction of aircraft noise; and 4) pollution control processes

that have application in desalination and as treatment of industrial waste. We are also at work on programs that can lead to a better understanding of this planet's natural resources.

If this sounds like the kind of equal opportunity employer you're looking for, please stop by your placement office and sign up for a personal interview.

Our interviewer will be on campus next week interviewing AE, EE, IE, ME and CS graduates.

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