

Agnew Dumping Unlikely

WASHINGTON—Murray Chotiner, President Nixon's longtime political strategist, Wednesday called speculation that Vice President Spiro T. Agnew might be dropped from the 1972 presidential ticket "wishful thinking on the part of his enemies."

"I have never heard anyone inside the White House suggest such a thing," said Chotiner, a White House adviser who has been instrumental in helping plan Nixon strategy ever since his first race for the House.

Chotiner discounted claims that Agnew's attacks on GOP Sen. Charles E. Goodell of New York as a "radical liberal" who had deserted his party had produced dissension within the party and unpopularity with Agnew.

"I don't know of a single state GOP chairman who did not want him (Agnew) to come to their state," Chotiner told UPI. "I don't think there's any question that his popularity within the party is quite high. There have been more demands on his time than he can meet."

Moreover, Chotiner emphasized that Agnew was "held in very high regard" by the President, particularly for the way he has performed on the campaign trail.

The latest "dump Agnew" talk grew out of a political column in the Washington Post in which David Broder speculated that Nixon might drop Agnew in favor of a younger running mate in 1972. Broder said Rep. George Bush, who is seeking a U.S. Senate seat in Texas, was high on the President's list.

Chotiner said that anti-Agnew sentiment came from the politically liberal community he has relentlessly attacked. "If he wasn't effective they would ignore him," he said.



My Lai Soldier Accuses Abrams

ATLANTA—One of the soldiers charged in the alleged My Lai massacre accused Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, U.S. Army commander in Vietnam, Wednesday of permitting troops to torture prisoners.

In filing the charges with Army Secretary Stanley Resor, attorney Charles Weltner said the Army had applied a "double standard" in cases such as My Lai and he wanted to expose it.

Weltner is the civilian attorney for Sgt. Esequiel Torres, 22, Brownsville, Tex., who had been charged with murdering three civilians by machinegun fire, hanging a fourth, and assault with intent to murder three others.

In the formal charge sent to Resor, Weltner alleged Abrams was derelict in that he "willfully allowed prisoners and detainees to be tortured and beaten in violation of the Geneva Convention" on or about Aug. 11, 1963, in the village of Chanh Luu.

He also accused Abrams of committing

a felony in knowing troops under his command struck prisoners and subjected them to "inhumane treatment" and the general "wrongfully and unlawfully" concealed the alleged acts.

In both cases, Weltner said, Abrams violated the Uniform Code of Military Justice by his "failure to control his troops." Weltner's charge sheet listed Peter Arnett of the Associated Press, New York, as his only witness.

Nixon Campaigning

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—President Nixon, his pants legs drenched with water from a barrel overturned on him by a crowd of about 2,000, including Harold G. Carswell, the former federal appeals judge who was rejected by the Senate after Nixon appointed him to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The President was greeted in Tallahassee, Florida's capital city by a crowd of about 2,000, including Harold G. Carswell, the former federal appeals judge who was rejected by the Senate after Nixon appointed him to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Acting as master of ceremonies, Carswell introduced Nixon as a man who will "stand up to bombers, radicals...and the wild-eyed liberals on the Supreme Court."

"The President of the United States is the most powerful man in the world," Nixon told an audience at St. Petersburg before stopping off in Tallahassee. "But a

McDonald Cleared Of Killing Family

FT. BRAGG—Green Beret Capt. Jeffrey MacDonald was cleared Wednesday in the murders of his pregnant wife and two daughters, leaving the Army with a case as cold as the February night nine months ago when they were slain by intruders.

"The investigation is continuing," was the Army's only comment following dismissal of the charges against MacDonald.

"I feel both relief and letdown," comment the trim 28-year-old physician in his quarters. "I'm still left without a family and with a life ahead of me."

MacDonald, of Patchogue, N.Y., has unwaveringly maintained that his family was attacked early in the morning Feb. 17 by four hippie intruders, one of them a girl with long hair who walked through the apartment chanting "acid is groovy."

His wife, Collette, 26, who was six months pregnant, was stabbed and beaten to death in her bedroom. The word "pig" was found in blood on the headboard of the bed. In another bedroom were the bodies of Kimberly, 6, and Kristen, 2.

Both were stabbed to death. MacDonald himself was badly wounded.

The Army at first said the slaying appeared to be "ritualistic," possibly the work of drug addicts, and that MacDonald was not a suspect. But in April, MacDonald was told he was a suspect, and he was charged in May.

The charges were dropped by Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Flanagan, MacDonald's commander, who ruled that the case presented in a prolonged closed-door

hearing was not sufficient to justify presentation to a court martial.

His decision came on the basis of a 2,000 word report from Col. Warren Rock, who heard the evidence, and the decision was supported by Ft. Bragg's commanding general, John Tolson.

MacDonald said he is requesting an "immediate discharge" from the army, on grounds it would be best for both parties. He earlier planned to make the Army his career.

Consulate Refused Access To Officers

MOSCOW—The Soviet Union has refused to allow U.S. officials to meet for a second time with two American generals and a major who have been held under house arrest since their plane strayed into Soviet Armenia on Oct. 21, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman said the Embassy ordered its two consular officials to return to Moscow while it presses for further access to Maj. Gen. Edward C. D. Scherrer, Brig. Gen. Claude M. McQuarrie

and Maj. James P. Russell.

The three Army officers, along with Turkish Col. Civat Danli, said they accidentally flew across the Soviet border from Turkey last Wednesday, landing at Leninakan.

An official embassy statement noted that the consular agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union calls for "continuing" access to detained citizens. But the statement did not specifically charge the Soviets with violating the agreement.

Attorney General Denies Jury Bias

KENT, Ohio—The state attorney general asserted Wednesday a grand jury report on the Kent State University shooting deaths was not influenced by the fact a special prosecutor for the panel once served in the Ohio National Guard.

"I don't see where it makes any difference," said Attorney General Paul Brown.

Brown said he would not have appointed Seabury Ford to aid the prosecution had he known about Ford's military background.

Ford was one of three prosecutors appointed by Brown to aid the grand jury.

Brown commented on reports Ford, cited for contempt of court for commenting on the grand jury investigation, was a member of the 107th Cavalry in the 1920s.

professor who was critical of the grand jury's report, also was cited for contempt of court.

The grand jury said "major responsibility" for the student killings should be placed on the Kent State administration for its "permissive attitude." Ford and Frank, a witness before the grand jury, were prohibited from commenting on the report by a Portage County court order.

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