

opinion/editorial

Agnew case verifies need to uphold public trust

Some form of justice may finally be coming to Spiro Agnew.

The former governor of Maryland and vice president under Richard Nixon has recently been the focal point of some interesting litigation in the Maryland courts.

Agnew resigned the vice presidency in October, 1973. The Justice Department was about to hit him with a bribery indictment when his lawyers arranged a plea bargain.

Agnew agreed to plead no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion and resign his vice presidency because of kickbacks he received from Maryland road project engineers while he was governor.

In 1973, three Maryland citizens filed suit urging the court to force Agnew to return the illegally-obtained money.

A judge then ruled that the citizens could not file the suit but that the state could.

And Monday the judge ruled that Agnew must return the \$248,735 in kickbacks that he received.

In his ruling, the judge said Agnew clearly "violated his public trust."

And he violated that trust to the tune of \$147,500 received in kickbacks and \$101,235 in inter-

est accumulated on the money.

Agnew has long maintained his innocence of the charges brought against him. In his book *Go Quietly or Else* Agnew painted an Agatha Christie-like scenario that he implies drove him from office.

He implies that some Nixon aides let it be known that Agnew was an expendable part of his administration. He said his fear for his own and his family's lives caused him to resign.

While promoting his book, Agnew said that he knew of information that would exonerate him of all charges. Unfortunately, he said he couldn't tell the waiting world what the information was.

Agnew has made no comment but his lawyer said an appeal on Monday's ruling is planned.

It might be interesting to hear Agnew tell under oath, how he was singled out as the fall guy for Nixon as the Watergate cover-up crumbled around the former president.

Agnew is the personification of public corruption. He is the textbook example of a person who used his public job and power for his own personal benefit.

It was an injustice that Agnew did not go to jail for the crimes he committed. Our country has laws that say no man is above the law,

but it is clear that both Richard Nixon and Agnew were considered above the law.

We hope the ruling against Agnew is upheld and he is required to pay back the money he wrongly took from the state of

Maryland.

Corruption in politics cannot be encouraged or tolerated. Perhaps rulings like the one against Agnew will remind officials of the public trust they are required to keep.

Tom Prentiss



The Three Racketeers: "All for one and me for all"

Honesty with self, others is well-learned lesson

By the time your college graduation rolls around, if you haven't established some sound principles for yourself and integrity, then you can consider yourself a worthless individual. If you have no idea what the meaning of integrity is by the time you graduate, you can count on being a slave to people who will bend and shape you into what they want and will not give any consideration to the person you really are.

barb richardson

Integrity seems to be a hot issue these days, especially since a rash of cheating has been discovered at UNL and because of the Janet Cooke syndrome. It seems as though many people operate in ways that will only bring power or a satisfactory end of some type.

But those individuals who achieve satisfaction by lying or acquiring power in an unfair manner, will be repaid in the end when their peers and others lose respect for them. How long does it take before people discover that a person did not act in a totally candid manner? Not long.

Senate hearing teaches facts of life

It sounded more like a high school biology class than a Senate hearing.

For two days, the Judiciary subcommittee room was filled with all sorts of lessons about the facts of "life," the birds and the bees, the sperm and the ovum.

ellen goodman

For two days, freshman Sen. John East (R-N.C.) conducted hearings on a piece of legislation known as the Human Life Bill. This is the bill that could outlaw abortion, by definition, without even bothering with a constitutional amendment.

The scam is a pretty simple one. First the Congress pretends that the Supreme Court didn't know the medical facts when it decided in 1973 to decriminalize abortion. Then the Congress in its wisdom "helps" the Court by defining "person" as a fertilized egg.

As East explained it when he opened the hearings on the origin of life: "If life does commence at conception,

Even if respect and the friendship of others is not important, self respect is important. Before the temptation of lying, cheating or deceiving wins you over, think about if you'll be able to live with yourself later. Is a good grade worth the self disappointment in knowing that you got an "A" dishonestly? Is a job that you've lied for or compromised your principles for worth it when you know that you aren't the person that you've pretended to be?

I don't think so. And in my last article for the Daily Nebraskan, I guess there is one important thing that I've learned in the last three years and want to share. I've learned the importance of being honest with others, more-over with myself.

Although I may not have come out the winner in all circumstances, I am very satisfied with the way I have performed. That's where the real winning comes into the picture. If you've satisfied yourself, been honest with yourself and others, then you're the real winner. And those who haven't played the game with integrity may be short-term winners, but they are not long-term winners.

Although three years ago, I would have thought that all of this honesty stuff was hokey, after seeing a few situations and circumstances of others, I believe in it. If you think back on your own experiences, I'm sure you'll be able to identify dishonest people and how their dishonesty caught up with them.

then the unborn person is protected under the Constitution... Roe v. Wade would be negated."

This Human Life Bill, sponsored by Jesse Helms, (R-N.C.), framed the abortion question—and I use the word "framed" advisedly—in terms of genetics rather than law or politics. That accomplished, East ran the hearings like a block meeting of the Friends of the Fetus.

On the first morning, five scientists, all apparently instructed never to use the word abortion, limited their testimony to the prescribed subject: "simply to define the word 'person' in biological terms." They talked about chromosomes, zygotes, fetuses, Fallopian tubes—everything but pregnant women.

One of the witnesses, Dr. Jerome Lejeune of Paris, highlighted the event with a lyric description of transcontinental cattle-breeding. What you do is transport a fertilized cow ovum across the ocean in the Fallopian tube of a rabbit and then transplant the ovum back into a cow uterus. (What you get, by the way, is a calf and not a rabbit.)

By the end of the first morning, to no one's surprise, the doctors had testified that biological life begins at conception. Eureka! Stop the presses!

Continued on Page 5

The Daily Nebraskan has truly been a learning experience, one that I wish more people would be able to experience. Along with the lessons I've learned, I've met and have become friends with a lot of people. But above all, I've learned more about myself and the expectations I have for myself and others. I expect more from people now than friendship. People that I admire and are true friends are those I can trust to be honest and those that have a high regard for their own principles.

I've demanded more of myself in the area of integrity and I only hope that others will do the same. I think everyone should be honest and truthful and maybe we can all help make that become a reality by demanding truth and honesty from ourselves and from others around us.

It's true that some people will never know the meaning of truth or honesty, but I don't think we should lose those two very important ideals.

So, before you think about cheating on the final or before you even think about lying for a job, think about the kind of precedent you're setting. And think about if your actions are what you would expect of others. I think we can all do ourselves a favor by being honest and expecting it from others. It may be difficult to be honest, but it will pay off in the long run.

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