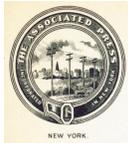


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 11, 2014 8:02 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - October 11, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

October 11, 2014

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



Spiro T. Agnew emerges from the federal court house in Baltimore Oct 10, 1973, after pleading no contest to

The Veep Scoop

By Richard Pyle

In mid-1973, recently returned to the Washington bureau after five years in Vietnam, I was reintroduced to U.S. politics by being assigned as AP's "body man" on Vice President **Spiro Agnew**, meaning I was to cover him everywhere he went.

Veeps aren't normally accorded such media attention, but Agnew was generating more news in a week than perhaps any of his 20th century predecessors had in a year.

And on this day, October 10, 1973, he performed an act seen only once previously in U.S. history. He resigned from the office of Vice President. And gave me the biggest scoop of my AP career.

Plucked from relative obscurity as Maryland's governor to be **Richard Nixon's** running mate in 1968, Agnew became a vocal defender of Nixon after the Watergate scandal exploded on the White House in 1972.

Making matters worse, Agnew himself was under federal investigation for alleged bribe-taking and other financial misdeeds as Maryland's governor and, earlier, chief executive of Baltimore County.

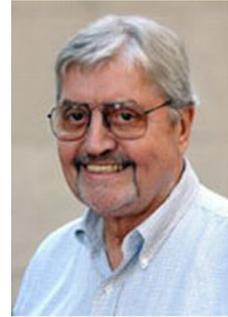
Amid unconfirmed reports that he might be plea-bargaining with federal prosecutors, Agnew continued delivering fiery speeches to partisan audiences, attacking administration critics in such colorful terms as "pusillanimous pussyfooters" and "nattering nabobs of negativism."

On a trip to California, it became clear these attacks were aimed not only at political enemies but also the press. Holed up at **Frank Sinatra's** house in Palm Springs, Agnew played golf with pro **Ken Venturi** and had the Secret Service eject an AP photographer and me from the course when the click of the camera disturbed his concentration.

In a Sept. 29 speech in Los Angeles, the Veep inflamed the partisan crowd on his own behalf, shouting defiantly, "I will not resign if indicted!" As we media nabobs nattered toward the exits at the Los Angeles convention center, blue-haired ladies were standing on tables, shaking their fists and screaming epithets.

Back in New York on Oct. 9, Agnew addressed a labor group luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, where I was joined by **Tom Kelly**, a New York City bureau reporter sent to cover the local angle. With a famously brash manner and "Noo Yawk" accent, Tom could have been sent by Central Casting.

He peppered me with questions about Agnew. "What does he eat? Does he watch his weight? Does he eat dessert? (pronounced 'dessoit')"



Richard Pyle

I had to confess I didn't know, but as Agnew dug into what looked like a parfait, Tom gave me a sharp elbow. "Look at that!" he exclaimed, whipping out his notebook. "He's eatin' the dessoit!"

As Agnew's next-day schedule was clear, I took a morning train back to Washington and reached the office around noon. About 2 p.m., the Baltimore bureau chief called to report that his secretary, while running an errand, had seen Agnew and several lawyer types arrive at the federal courthouse and, virtually unnoticed, enter by the back door.

I called the Agnew office and asked for press secretary **Marsh Thompson**. "He's not here, he's with the vice president in Baltimore," secretary **Lisa Brown** told me.

I said we knew he was at the federal courthouse there, but didn't know why.

She said, "Richard, the vice president has just resigned."

"Resigned? You mean from office?"

"The staff was just informed that the vice president has resigned, effective immediately."

I turned to Assistant Chief of Bureau **Walter Mears**, at his desk a few feet away.

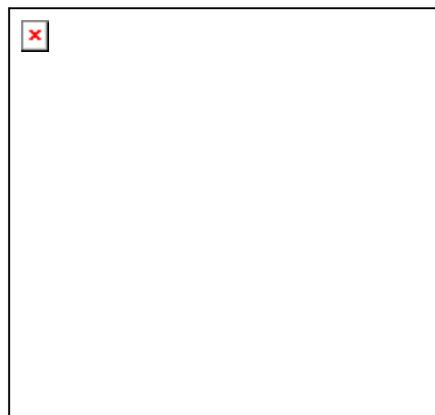
"Walter, Agnew just resigned."

Though I doubt everyone in the room heard it, the bureau seemed to suddenly go silent. Except for Mears, the ultimate pro, who didn't miss a beat. He called across the newsroom, "Clear the A-wire!"

I was trying to write but my fingers tangled in the keys, so I dictated to Mears, who wrote the bulletin:

"Washington (AP) _ Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned today, his secretary said."

Our half of the story was already clacking across the wires when the Baltimore courtroom was unlocked and reporters dashed for the phones with the other half: Agnew had pleaded no contest -- tantamount to guilty -- to having evaded income taxes in 1967.



His letter of resignation reached Secretary of State **Henry Kissinger** at 2:05 p.m. At about the same time, The Star, Washington's PMs rival to the Post, halted the press run of its final edition to re-plate page 1 with the AP story.

A resignation letter also sent to the Speaker of the House

About ten minutes had passed, and in another call to Agnew's office, **Lisa Brown** told me that no other reporters had yet called. I told Walter, "I think we've got this story alone." His reply: "Not for long, I hope."

By coincidence, the AP Board of Directors was meeting in Williamsburg, Va., that day to choose a successor to retiring president **Wes Gallagher**. On his way back to New York, WG stopped in the DC bureau to compliment us on the Agnew scoop, and I put in a bid to cover the new Middle East conflict then taking shape.

Three days later, Agnew was all but forgotten as I headed for Cairo, with AP reporter **Jurate Kazickas**, to report on the fast-developing war between Israel and Egypt.

But on return to 50 Rock more than a month later, one of the first people I saw was Tom Kelly. He waved from the NYC bureau at the far corner of the big 4th floor newsroom, and then walked halfway across to deliver the final verdict on the disgraced Veep:

"Hey, he never shoulda ate that dessoit."

-0-

Anne FitzHenry Nov. 8, 1955 - Oct. 9, 2014

Former Associated Press reporter and news editor **Anne FitzHenry**, who helped direct coverage of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, died Thursday in Indiana. She was 58.

Anne spent 12 years working for AP as a reporter in Columbus and Toledo and as news editor, first in Baltimore and then in Atlanta. She was news editor in Atlanta during the 1996 Games, overseeing the AP staff covering host city news, and participating in coverage of a terrorist bombing during the Games.

A reporter she supervised in Atlanta, **Joan Kirchner**, now chief of staff for U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson, once wrote that Anne was "a smart, tough editor who knows how to turn a good story into a great story." Anne later worked as a business desk editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and a copy editor at the Providence Journal before joining Habitat for Humanity International as a copy editor in 2011.



Anne FitzHenry

Born Nov. 8, 1955, she was raised in South Bend, Ind., and graduated with a Communications Degree from the University of Evansville in 1978. She was diagnosed with

a rare form of cancer last year and had been at the Emory Health Systems in Atlanta until returning to South Bend in July.

The family suggests that donations in her memory be given to the donor's local library system, the South Bend St. Joseph High School Class of '74, any charity for abused dogs and cats or to benefit young readers and musicians. Card or notes may be sent to Anne's sister, **Rosemary Zirille**, with whom she was living when she died: Rosemary Zirille, 3210 Wild Cherry Ridge West Mishawaka, IN 46544-6902.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.palmerfuneralhomes.com.

[Anne FitzHenry obituary](#)

-0-

On Friday evening, **Jim Williams** shared with friends on his Facebook page the sad news that his mother, Barbara ("Peggy") Pressley Williams died Thursday at age 90 at her home in Lakemont, Ga. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made to Clayton Baptist Church, 87 South Church Street, Clayton, GA 30525.

[Barbara P. Pressley Williams obituary](#)

-0-

News of AP

[Susan Beachy to lead AP news research](#)

Susan Beachy has been named news research manager for The Associated Press.

Overseeing a team based in New York and Washington, Beachy will be responsible for AP's editorial research capabilities globally. She will implement ways to quickly retrieve information to support AP's news-gathering and develop innovative approaches to uncovering the details that drive stories.

Beachy will report to **Troy Thibodeaux**, interactive newsroom technology editor, and in the coming months they will work to advance AP's news research in the age of data, mobile and social media.

Beachy will join AP Oct. 27 from The New York Times, where she conducts in-depth, deadline-driven and cost-effective research on a variety of topics for reporters and editors. Beachy also serves as an adjunct research instructor at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. She teaches news research and fact-checking skills to master's level students using LexisNexis, government sources, social media and other tools.



Susan Beachy

Previously, she worked as senior manager at Fox News Channel, where she managed the information center and helped to negotiate vendor contracts. She developed online briefing books on topics from Supreme Court justices to natural disasters, including content used to create full-screen displays during the channel's coverage of the 2008 Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

[How AP vets and copes with violent imagery](#)

From his base in London, International Social Media Editor **Fergus Bell** leads The Associated Press' efforts to source and verify user-generated content so that the AP can publish that content across formats. In a recent [Q&A with the Global Editors Network](#), Bell discussed how AP journalists handle the daily monitoring of violent and graphic imagery when searching for and vetting UGC from conflict areas such as Iraq and Syria.

-0-

Today's Connecting sky shot: Mexico City



[Michelle Morgante](#) _ This view of the lunar eclipse was made about 5:45 a.m. Central Time from the balcony of my apartment in the Condesa neighborhood of Mexico City on Oct. 8, 2014. (Credit: Michelle Morgante)

-0-

Connecting mailbox

[Marc Humbert](#) _ Love the bureau chiefs' montage (Friday Connecting). An impressive group that brings back lots of fond memories, especially of **Ed Staats** and **Sam Boyle**. Ed took a chance on a guy driving a school bus. I still can't believe my good luck that he did so. And, what can one say about the legendary Sam Boyle? He was a mentor, a protector, an advocate, a teacher and one of the toughest guys in the business. But most important, he was a friend.

More on Wirespeak

[Gordon Sakamoto](#) _ When I was with UPI, referencing The AP was ROX. Way back when, The AP was headed by someone named Stone.

On the teletypes, again, when I was with UPI here in Honolulu (clear skies today with the temperature already at a comfortable 75 and slowly climbing), I was notified that we would be receiving computers and that we were to throw out the teletype machines. We had no way of hauling the clunkers out of the bureau so I asked the Hawaii Newspaper Agency's operation's manager if he could help me. He came in and asked where we wanted the machines moved. When I told him to dump them, his eyes widened and he practically bellowed out "Dump them! Hell no, we'll put them in our museum." So, in a matter of minutes, it went from a working piece of equipment directly to the newspaper's museum.

[Bob Daugherty](#) _ I recall that Unipressers referred to AP as Rox and sometimes grandma.

[Hal Bock](#) _ Noting the wirespeak discussion, one of the first things I learned at The AP were the bureau abbreviations. I still use them today 10 years after retirement. Some were odd like DX for Denver but DN for Dallas. I always liked MH for Miami, NA for Indianapolis, etc. Anybody know the origins?

Welcome



[**Maryann Mrowca**](#)

Assistant Chief of Bureau, Alabama-Georgia-North Carolina-South Carolina
Atlanta, GA

Stories of interest

[Ebola victim's family gives medical records to AP](#)



Thomas **Eric Duncan's** temperature spiked to 103 degrees during the hours of his initial visit to an emergency room - a fever that was flagged with an exclamation point in the hospital's record-keeping system, his medical records show. Despite telling a nurse that he had recently been in Africa and displaying other symptoms that could indicate Ebola - fever, sharp headache and abdominal pain - the Liberian man who would become the only person to die from the disease in the U.S. underwent a battery of tests and was eventually sent home. Duncan's family provided his medical records to The Associated Press -- more than 1,400 pages in all. They chronicle his time in the ER, his urgent return to the hospital two days later and his steep decline as his organs began to fail.

[Liberia bans journalists from Ebola centers](#)

Liberia said on Friday it was banning journalists from Ebola clinics, defying media rights campaigners who have warned panicked African governments against "muzzling" reporters. "These journalists enter the ETUs and cross red lines," **Isaac Jackson**, the deputy information minister, told listeners to commercial station Sky FM. They violate people's privacy, take pictures that they will sell to international institutions. We are putting an end to that."

[Dr. Nancy Snyderman, back from Africa, reportedly seen in public](#)

Several people in central New Jersey have reported seeing NBC News Chief Medical Editor **Dr. Nancy Snyderman** in public over the past day. Snyderman allegedly was seen sitting in her car outside of the Pheasant Grill in Hopewell, N.J., Thursday afternoon. A man who was with her got out of the car and went inside the restaurant to pick up a take-out order, a Planet Princeton reader reported. An American freelance cameraman working with Snyderman in Liberia last week tested positive for Ebola. Snyderman, a resident of Princeton, was flown back to the United States with a crew member on a private charter flight this weekend. Snyderman and her crew were going to be placed under voluntary quarantine for 21 days as a precaution, NBC News President Deborah Turness announced in a written statement Oct. 3.



Dr. Nancy Snyderman

-0-

[High school newspaper editors receive ACLU award for stand against "Redskins" nickname](#)

It all began in 2013, when the student editors of the Neshaminy High, Langhorne, Pa., school newspaper voted to ban the school's sports nickname, "Redskins," from its publication. But the Neshaminy School Board then voted to overrule the editors and

require them to use the name as it pertains to advertisements, letters to the editor and guest editorials.

-0-

[Snowden documentary: Leaker takes direct aim at Obama](#)

A two-hour documentary, "Citizen Four, " about **Edward Snowden**, was screened Friday night and is to be released by the Weinstein Company this month. In it, Snowden explains how the government has violated privacy rights on a massive scale and points an accusing finger at the Obama administration.

-0-

[Obit: Cliff Teutsch](#)

Clifford L. Teutsch, a dedicated newspaperman who led The Courant's newsroom through some of its most exhilarating and most turbulent times, died Friday. He was 64. Teutsch served as editor of the Courant from September 2006 to May 2009, and as managing editor for a dozen years before that. He led the somber celebration in 1999 after the Courant won its second Pulitzer Prize, for its reporting on the lottery headquarters shooting, guided the paper's coverage of the 9/11 attacks, and later navigated difficult years as shrinking revenue led to newsroom buyouts and layoffs.

-0-

[Obit: Charlie Waters](#)

Charles R. "Charlie" Waters Jr., a veteran newspaperman, died Wednesday at his home in Henderson, Nev., after a battle with lung cancer. He was 66. Waters, the son of a newspaperman, spent more than 40 years in journalism, leading the newsroom at many stops along the way. He worked for the Las Vegas Review-Journal until his retirement two years ago.

-0-

[Headlines that never should have been written](#) (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

Writing is no cakewalk, that's for sure. But sometimes you have to wonder why some writers just won't quit. Here are 24 headlines that never should have made it to the paper.

-0-

[Gregory Gittich out at NBC News](#)

Gregory Gittrich, head of news and product for NBC News Digital, is leaving the network after nearly two years to the day on the job, NBC News Senior Vice President of Editorial and Innovation **Julian March** announced in a memo on Friday.

-0-

The last word (they think)

A New Jersey newspaper has [issued a correction](#) for a story it published in 1852 about a bear mauling a teenage boy to death. The story didn't list a location of the bear attack, making it appear it happened in New Jersey. The New Jersey Herald of Newton, N.J., wrote in Thursday's correction it actually happened in Arkansas. Herald Executive Editor **Bruce Tomlinson** said a reader pointed out the error when the newspaper re-published the story this week. The newspaper then discovered that the original story was first published in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe](#)

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215