Spiro Agnew, the Author, Speaks Out

NEW YORK — Former Vice President Spiro Agnew, whose novel-in-progress is excerpted in the current edition of the Ladies' Home Journal, pictures himself as a novelist suffering political persecution.

Agnew, in an interview accompanying the excerpt, said: "there will be people who, because of who I am, will refuse to read my book, who will feel antagonism toward those who have published it.

"I don't think it is any more fair for these people to complain to the Journal about publishing my novel than it is for anyone to have surpressed the work of (Soviet dissident author) Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn."

Agnew, who resigned from the vice-presidency last year after pleading no contest to charges of tax evasion, said he thought of writing the novel after his resignation.

"When you have gone through a very traumatic experience . . . your first thought is that you must restore your confidence by doing something creative, something that comes about not because of who you know or who wants to help you, but a product that stands on its own merit," Agnew said.

Agnew insisted he did not have a ghost-writer.

The excerpt, of about 5,-500 words, begins the romance between the book's hero, aristocratic, wealthy U.S. Vice President Porter Canfield, and Miss Meredith Lord, the beautiful secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Elsewhere, the novel deals with an Iranian plot to use the vice president to stir up Middle-East strife to save Afghanistan from the Soviet Union.

"One of the principle restraints I put on myself is that my book should not do anything to endanger national security or disrupt important international relations," Agnew said.

He said the characters did not represent real political figures, living or dead.

Agnew said he was frightened of writing sex scenes and that any success the book may have will not stem from its being "superheated in those aspects."

"I have to admit that I won't always be writing from my own experience; I'm not a man of great experience in this area."