

Agnew Defends Tapes

Washington

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said last night that the taping of presidential conversations at the White House was not necessarily a violation of anyone's privacy because the tapes have not been transcribed.

He declined to tell reporters whether he had discussed Watergate matters during a 50-minute visit with President Nixon at Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

It was Agnew's first conversation with the President since Mr. Nixon became ill with viral pneumonia last

Thursday.

When asked whether he thought the tapes should be turned over to the Senate Watergate committee, Agnew said that was a "presidential decision."

Asked if he didn't think that the release of the tapes might vindicate the President completely of Watergate involvement, he said "that's a very simplistic way to look at it." He said that the tapes were not changed from interview to interview and that one single reel might have conversations with foreign princi-

pals and those of political nature mixed together.

The vice president said he didn't know his conversations with the President had been taped, but said "I have no resentment of the fact that I was being taped."

Associated Press