

Rep. Findley Seeking to Force House Vote on Agnew Inquiry

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Representative Paul Findley, Republican of Illinois, said today that he would seek a vote of the full House of Representatives if necessary to force an inquiry into "whether the Vice President has committed impeachable offenses."

But lawyers for Vice President Agnew met later today with Mr. Findley and reportedly voiced concern that this parliamentary strategy could lead to a "one-sided" presentation of the case being assembled against Mr. Agnew by the Department of Justice.

Mr. Agnew asked the House last week to undertake a full public inquiry into allegations that he had accepted kickbacks from contractors as a state and local official in Maryland. The House Speaker, Carl Albert of Oklahoma, and other Democratic leaders decided to withhold any action on the Vice President's request, however, and some Republicans have since sought to force an inquiry.

One Republican, Representative Paul N. McCloskey Jr. of California, led a 42-minute colloquy on the House floor late today in an effort, so far unavailing, to persuade the Demo-

cratic leaders to grant Mr. Agnew's request.

"In all fairness," Mr. McCloskey said, "we owe the office of Vice President this much — a speedy, comprehensive and impartial inquiry into allegations of impeachable misconduct — so that the Vice President can serve his high office without this particular sword of Damocles suspended over his every function."

Representative Findley introduced a "privileged" resolution yesterday in an attempt to force the issue to a climax. The resolution merely asked, however, that the Attorney General be directed to turn over to the House any evidence gathered against Mr. Agnew in the Maryland investigation.

In a statement issued today, Mr. Findley noted that his resolution was privileged under House rules and that the Judiciary Committee must act on it within seven legislative days — or by late next week.

He said that if the committee did not do so, he would introduce a motion to discharge it from further consideration of the resolution. If that were to occur, a majority of the House would have to decide what action to take.