

AGNEW IS FIGHTING DISBARMENT CASE

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Nov. 23 (UPI)—Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's lawyers argued today that his plea of no contest to a charge of income tax evasion was not grounds for disciplinary action, such as disbarment.

The Maryland Bar Association, in a petition filed Nov. 12, said Mr. Agnew's plea of no contest was evidence of "professional misconduct, crime involving moral turpitude or conduct prejudicial to the administration," grounds for disbarment, suspension or other disciplinary action.

In their four-paragraph brief, Mr. Agnew's attorneys conceded the facts of the plea but contended that it was not grounds for changing his status as a member of the bar.

Mr. Agnew, who resigned from office Oct. 10, the same day he entered the plea, was fined \$10,000 and put on three years of unsupervised probation.

The Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, has the final say on disciplinary action against attorneys admitted to practice law in Maryland. The court has appointed a three-judge panel to hear evidence and make a recommendation, but no date has been set for the hearing.