

Agnew's Argument on Disbarment

Annapolis, Md.

Lawyers for Spiro T. Agnew said yesterday that a special judicial panel ignored national precedent in recommending that the former vice president be disbarred.

In a formal request for reduction of the recommended penalty, Agnew's lawyers said that suspension, instead of disbarment, was handed out in 70 of 81 cases involving lawyers' income tax offenses reported in the nation since 1946.

The petition filed with the state Court of Appeals said Agnew, "like John Doe, should be disciplined promptly, fairly and in a manner consistent with treatment accorded his fellows."

"If such treatment is accorded, we submit the lower court's recommendation should be modified to provide suspension for such period of time as seems reasonable," E. Dale Adkins and Leon H. A. Pierson said in their 11-page petition.

Disbarment was recommended by three Circuit Court judges after a December 18 hearing in which Agnew asked that the court not strip him of his means of earning a living.

the final say on whether he should be prohibited from practicing law in Maryland. Disbarment in Maryland would prohibit Agnew from practicing law elsewhere.

Disbarment proceedings were begun by the Maryland Bar Association after the former Maryland governor pleaded no contest to a charge of failing to report \$29,500 in income on his federal tax returns.

The Court of Appeals has

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