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Treasury Dept.

Protection for Agnew Defended

Washington

The Treasury Department refused yesterday to end Secret Service protection for former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

In a letter to Representative John E. Moss, (Dem-Calif.,) who had asked that the protection be ended, Treasury's top lawyers pointed out the Secret Service protection was previously afforded to public officials outside the executive branch.

The letter specifically cited Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), who received protection during the 1972 presidential cam-

paign, even though he was not a candidate, and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, (Dem-Minn.), who had an escort for six months.

"It is Treasury's position that we are carrying out a presidential order which is neither unprecedented nor unreasonable," said Edward C. Schmults, general counsel for the Treasury Department.

The Government Accounting Office, an arm of Congress, has reported that Agnew's protection cost \$89,222 from its start October 10 through December 15. Agnew is currently on an extended stay in California,

Associated Press