

## Agnew Complains To the Press

### Washington

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has written to the Washington Post to complain that he has been "harassed by the news media" since leaving office.

His comments, appearing in yesterday's editions, contested an August 23 article in the Post headlined: "Agnew Case 'Leniency' Effect Eyed."

"Leniency in my case?" wrote Agnew. "That is to laugh.

"The whole story will be told later; meanwhile, please bear in mind that the bribery and extortion charges against me are unproved, that I denied them on national television and that I continue to deny them.

"For my decision not to contest a single tax charge, I have lost the right to practice my profession, lost a

substantial pension, temporarily lost my right to vote, and have won the right to be harassed by the news media and be constantly referred to as a convicted felon who has admitted to all the facts I have specifically denied."

The judge who sentenced Agnew to three years probation and a fine of \$10,000 for income tax evasion said the no contest entry was the equivalent of a guilty plea.

The prosecutors, who worked out the deal to get Agnew to resign, released a detailed case against the former vice president, including a long list of charges that he took kickbacks from businessmen when he was Maryland's governor and as a local official in Baltimore.

The Post, in its reply to the Agnew letter, denied it had ever suggested the former vice president has admitted to any criminal acts other than the tax charge.

*United Press*