

Journal Eyes Agnew's Novel

The Ladies Home Journal plans to publish a condensed version of the Spiro Agnew novel of political intrigue turned down last month by Random House as "not suitable" for its publishing list.

"This is a fascinating literary property," said Richard Kaplan, executive editor of the magazine. "Never before has a former Vice President so freshly out of office, so controversial and so well-known, written a Washing-

ton-based novel. We're interested in things like this. If Robert Kennedy, please God, were still alive and had written something, for example, we'd be just as interested."

Kaplan termed reports that Agnew will receive \$100,000 for the serial rights "inaccurate," adding, "I won't say whether it's high or low."

The novel, according to Kaplan (who has seen only an outline, a sample chapter

and a list of character sketches) involves a group of Iranian militants and their effect on American politics, particularly the Vice President.

"We don't know when we'll be publishing, certainly not in the next two months," Kaplan said. "We still have to work out how much of the novel we'll run and how many installments we'll run. The deal hasn't been consummated yet."

Kaplan described as false,

reports that Agnew is working with a ghost writer.

"Like all first novels it will require work and editing," Kaplan said. "But I think there's great power and potential there."

The magazine's present plans for publication do not include reference to Agnew's former title of Vice President. The fiction will run in the Journal under the byline: "By Spiro T. Agnew."

—Tom Zito.