

Agnew Disagrees With Charges

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew denied in a court statement filed Friday that he was guilty of conduct which would justify his being banned from practicing law in Maryland.

Lawyers for Agnew did not ask for dismissal of disbarment proceedings brought against him by the Maryland Bar Association.

Instead, the brief paper filed with the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court said the former vice president "submits himself to the jurisdiction of this honorable court for such action, after hearing, as the court deems proper and appropriate."

The State Bar Association filed suit Nov. 12 asking that

disciplinary action be taken against Agnew.

The petition noted that he had pleaded no contest to a charge of "attempting to evade or defeat income taxes by filing and causing to be filed a false and fraudulent joint income tax return."

Agnew's answer acknowledged that the facts stated in the petition were correct.

But he denied the association petition was correct in its statement those facts constituted "charges of professional misconduct, crime involving moral turpitude or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice. . ."

A panel of three Circuit Court judges has been appointed to

hear the disbarment proceedings, but no date has been set for a hearing.

The judges can recommend disbarment or some lesser penalty to the State Court of Appeals, which will make the final determination.

Agnew was admitted to the practice of law in Maryland in 1947, but remained inactive as a lawyer while serving as Baltimore County Executive, governor of Maryland and Vice President of the United States.