

U.S. Yields Agnew Papers In Public Scrutiny Suit

Washington

The Justice Department turned over to a federal judge yesterday the first batch of papers from its secret files in the 1973 Spiro T. Agnew investigation.

U.S. District Judge June L. Green had ordered that the papers be given to her for determination on whether they can be made public.

The Justice Department was sued by two George Washington University law students who demanded to see the papers under the Freedom of Information Act.

The department resisted on grounds that some of the documents might hinder current investigations in Maryland, or might prejudice the

rights of innocent persons.

Last month Judge Green said she would screen the documents first and ordered their delivery in three stages.

Agnew was accused in late 1973 of accepting \$82,500 in kickback payments from architects and engineers while he was Baltimore County executive and governor of Maryland.

Agnew, then the vice president, plea bargained with federal prosecutors and agreed to plead no contest to a single count of tax evasion. He resigned as vice president on October 10, the day he entered the plea, and was subsequently fined \$10,000 and placed on probation. He has continued to maintain that he is innocent.

Associated Press