

Group Formed to Back Agnew for '72

Washington

Declaring that "Vice President Spiro Agnew has won unprecedented praise from millions of Americans for his courageous, uncompromising positions," a group of conservatives has started a campaign to insure that he is on the 1972 GOP ticket, it was learned yesterday.

A group calling itself "Americans for Agnew" and headed by Lee Edwards, a Washington public affairs consultant, sent telegrams last week to an undisclosed number of persons throughout the nation.

"You are invited to join the national board of sponsors of Americans for Agnew, a nationwide grassroots organization which will do everything in its power in the next 12 months to ensure that Agnew will be on the ticket in 1972," the telegram said.

"Your support is urgently needed to give Americans for Agnew the impact it must have to demonstrate to the White House, the Republican party and the nation that we

will not accept the elimination of Spiro Agnew from the GOP ticket in 1972."

Edwards, who also is public relations director for Friends of the FBI, refused to comment on the telegram.

Earlier, columnist Jack Anderson had reported that President Nixon has commis-

sioned a poll to determine whether Agnew would strengthen or hurt the ticket next year.

Citing Agnew's stands on "the news media, radical liberals, China and other vital issues," the telegram said, "His political popularity and philosophical importance,

particularly to conservatives, are undeniable. In an era of ideological eunuchs, he stands almost alone as a man of principle. Yet, Washington, D.C., is ablaze with rumors that Vice President Agnew will be dumped from the GOP ticket in 1972."

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