

## Agnew Leaks Are Deplored By Proxmire

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) yesterday urged newsmen not to charge, try and convict Vice President Agnew.

"The foundation of our system is the right to face accusers," he said in a statement. "When the press disseminates leaked charges it helps undermine that foundation and unwittingly subverts the system of justice."

Proxmire called the press "the people's guardian against dishonest public officials," but added the press had used "relaxed journalistic ethics" in refusing to name sources of their stories about the Vice President.

Although Proxmire said he recognized the importance of shielding newsmen's sources, he believes Agnew's Sixth Amendment rights to be informed of an accusation and confronted with witnesses against him have been violated.

Proxmire made similar charges against the press when John Dean's statement implicating the President in the Watergate cover-up was published during the first days of the Senate Watergate hearings.