

An Agnew Aide Denies Report on Grand Jury

Washington

A spokesman for Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said yesterday that a published report quoting "some Agnew aides" as saying that the investigation involving Agnew would go to a federal grand jury this week is "absolutely false."

"No member of the vice president's staff has made any statement with reference to an understanding that the federal grand jury would begin hearing evidence in the case this week," said Agnew's press secretary, J. Marsh Thomson.

The report appeared in the September 10 issue of Newsweek magazine in an article dealing with the federal probe of alleged kickbacks to government officials in Maryland, where Agnew formerly served as governor and as a county executive.

The vice president has been advised formally that he is under investigation on possible violations of bribery, conspiracy, extortion and tax laws. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Thomson said the denial that any member of Agnew's staff has made the statement attributed to them by Newsweek was based on

the fact that Agnew's own aides have not been kept apprised of the investigation or of the vice president's legal defense plans.

Associated Press