

House May Get Findings on Agnew

WASHINGTON

A federal grand jury investigating allegations of political graft in Maryland may send its findings on Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to the House of Representatives, it was learned yesterday.

Such action could be a prelude to impeachment proceedings against Agnew if the evidence warranted it.

The procedure would permit the Justice Department to avoid facing the controversial constitutional question whether a Vice President can be indicted before he is impeached. If Agnew were impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate, he would then be a private citizen subject to indictment without constitutional questions.

Sources close to the investigation said that if Agnew evidence is eventually sent to the House, it would probably be done in the form of a presentment, a document outlining the grand jury's findings and any action it might otherwise have taken.

The Justice Department said it had no comment on the report.

The Vice President is under investigation by the federal grand jury in Baltimore for possible violation of tax, extortion, bribery and conspiracy laws. The panel is probing allegations that contractors and architects paid kickbacks to Maryland politicians in return for contracts.

Associated Press