

Request for Agnew Gift Reported

Washington

A Washington urban planner says he was asked to give Spiro T. Agnew \$2500 for the vice president's help in obtaining a federal contract, CBS News reported yesterday.

CBS quoted the planner, Edward Echeverria, as saying the request came from his former boss and a friend of the vice president, Lester Matz.

CBS also reported that Agnew's chief of staff, Arthur J. Sohmer, made a phone call to the General Services Administration to recommend Echeverria's firm for the contract.

Echeverria, reached by CBS in Bogota, Columbia, where he was on a business trip, said he thought he had received the contract to provide a master plan for a building complex in Suitland, Md., without political influence.

However, he continued, he was asked by Matz for \$2500 in April or May of 1971, after he had started the job.

Associated Press