

Nixon Lawyer Reported In Agnew Bargaining

New York

White House lawyers tried to mediate a deal between Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and the Justice Department in which Agnew might have resigned and pleaded guilty to reduced charges, Newsweek Magazine reported yesterday.

The magazine said White House Counsel J. Fred Buzhardt served as the key mediator in a week-long effort to budge Agnew's attorneys and Justice Department lawyers into a compromise arrangement.

Newsweek said the "bot-

tom-line requirement" at the Justice Department was for Agnew to quit and plead guilty to a charge that could have imprisoned him for at least nine months.

The magazine said Agnew's attorneys at one point suggested he be given immunity that would allow him to help federal investigators without jeopardizing his own constitutional protections.

Newsweek added that plea bargaining by Agnew has been consistently denied by both Agnew attorneys and administration sources.

United Press