

Reagan Praises Agnew's Integrity

Governor Ronald Reagan gave a political pat on the back yesterday to Vice President Spiro Agnew.

In a speech before the Independent Insurance Agents Association convention at the Fairmont Hotel, the governor said, "I've always believed the vice president is a

man of honor and integrity."

Reagan, sometimes regarded as a contender for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination, added that he had first met Agnew while the vice president was governor of Maryland.

Referring to Agnew's fighting speech in Los An-

geles last Saturday, Reagan declared:

"After his speech last week I don't see how anyone could doubt the man."

Agnew is under investigation by a federal grand jury in Baltimore in connection with alleged kickbacks and bribery. The vice president

has proclaimed his innocence.

WATERGATE

In response to questions, Reagan said he thinks "we've seen the worst of Watergate."

He is disturbed, he said, that the Watergate furor might distract from "the things we voted for in 1972," such as a reduction of the federal bureaucracy.

Reagan said lobbyists and special interest groups and "a bunch of politically motivated vigilantes" are using Watergate as an excuse for opposing the streamlining of the federal government.

Reagan devoted most of his speech to a defense of his tax limit initiative that will appear on the November 6 ballot.

The initiative would constitutionally limit the amount the state could tax the citizenry for the next 15 years.

"Government does not have to live within a reasonable budget, as every family in California must do. Government balances its budget by unbalancing yours," Reagan declared.