

Press maps plan to block Agnew on sources

United Press

WASHINGTON — Lawyers for eight major news gathering organizations and the Justice Department laid their strategy yesterday for resisting Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's legal attempt to track down the sources of news leaks about his criminal investigation.

None of the lawyers involved would comment on the subpoenas served Friday — the Justice Department

would not even confirm they had been served — in line with U.S. District Judge Walter E. Hoffman's order to remain silent.

But executives of the publications and television networks were unanimous in vowing they would refuse to divulge their reporters' confidential sources under the first amendment guarantee of freedom of the press.

"We are going to take a course along with other pub-

lications to resist the subpoenas," said Newbold Noyes, editor of the Washington Star-News. "We are now involved with our attorneys to discuss the proper strategy."

Joseph A. Califano Jr., Washington attorney for the Washington Post and Newsweek Magazine, was back at work in his office yesterday after conferring Friday with lawyers for other subpoenaed news organizations.

The Post quoted an unnamed legal source as saying that Hoffman's extraordinary plan to be present when Agnew's attorneys attempt to take sworn depositions next Thursday raised the possibility that any reporters who refused to identify their sources might be held in contempt.

In addition to the Post and Star-News, subpoenas were served on reporters for the New York Times, the New

York Daily News, Time and Newsweek magazines, and the CBS and NBC networks.

They were instructed to appear at U.S. District Court in Baltimore Thursday morning with "all writings and other forms of records, including drafts," related to their communications with government employees, or anyone having contact with them, about an investigation of Agnew for possible tax, bribery, extor-

tion and conspiracy violations.

Subpoenas also were reported served at the Justice Department. The recipients were believed to include Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson, Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen and U.S. Attorney George Beall, who is heading the federal investigation of alleged political corruption in Maryland.