

Another Slant on The Agnew Leaks

Washington

An internal Justice Department study indicates that one of the major sources of allegedly damaging news leaks against Vice President Agnew may have been the vice president's own office or the White House.

In a 34-page document submitted to U.S. District Judge Walter E. Hoffman, Assistant Attorney General Glen E. Pommerening cited a "high correlation" between information given President Nixon's and Agnew's offices and "disclosures which have appeared in the press."

It also noted that Henry E. Petersen, the assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, had no

knowledge of the case prior to Agnew's acknowledgment the night of August 6 that he was under investigation.

Agnew has concentrated his attack on Petersen as a major source of news leaks he has said are part of a campaign to drive him from office. Agnew has called it a "malicious, immoral, illegal attack" on him.

Both Mr. Nixon and attorney General Elliot L. Richardson have defended Petersen.

The vice president's lawyers are seeking to learn more about those news leaks and have issued subpoenas to nine newsmen and two news magazines in an effort to question them.

New York Times