

Attorney Calls Agnew 'A Crook'

Chicago

U.S. Attorney James R. Thompson said yesterday he has never seen a stronger case of bribery or extortion than the one the government had developed against Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

"The man is a crook, no question about that at all," Thompson said.

Thompson, federal district attorney for the northern district of Illinois, had been chosen by the justice depart-

ment to defend the government against Agnew's charges of prejudicial press leaks. He made the comments at a news conference on his return to Chicago yesterday.

"If that case had gone to trial and if those witnesses had testified as they said they would, a conviction would have resulted. I have never seen a stronger case of bribery or extortion," Thompson said.

Thompson said he thinks that "on the whole a good resolution" has been made at the case.

"I have no doubt that if the vice president had stood trial and been convicted, he would have been sentenced to a very large number of years," Thompson said.

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