

Agnew Argues He Should Not Be Disbarred

By Douglas Watson

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ANNAPOLIS, Nov. 23—Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said in a court paper filed here today that he is not guilty of any wrongdoing that would justify his being barred from the practice of law.

Agnew's lawyers, in a one-page statement, denied charges by the Maryland State Bar Association. On Nov. 12 the bar association moved for disciplinary action against the former Vice President on the grounds of "professional misconduct, crime involving moral turpitude, or conduct prej-

udicial to the administration of justice. . ."

Agnew's brief response was filed in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court, where a specially-appointed three-judge panel will consider whether or not to disbar Agnew.

The bar's action came a month after Agnew pleaded "no contest" to one count of tax evasion and resigned as Vice President. Federal prosecutors then released a 40-page statement of bribery and extortion evidence they had developed against Agnew.

In their answer to the bar's petition, Agnew's lawyers conceded that Agnew had been

admitted to the practice of law in Maryland in 1947, that the state bar has brought charges against him and that he pledged "no contest" to the tax evasion charge. But, they rejected the contention that Agnew should be disciplined or disbarred.

No date as yet been set for a hearing on the bar's move for disciplinary action, which will be heard here by Baltimore Superior Court Judge Shirley B. Jones, Anne Arundel County Circuit Judge Ridgely P. Melvin and Prince George's County Circuit Judge William H. McCullough.

The panel could recommend that Agnew be reprimanded, suspended from the practice of law or disbarred, which would prevent him from practicing law anywhere in the nation. The panel will make a recommendation to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, which will make the final decision.

Agnew is represented by E. Dale Adkins Jr., a Salisbury lawyer, and Leon H. A. Pierson, a Baltimore lawyer. Representing the Bar Association at the hearing will be Alfred L. Scanlan, a Montgomery County lawyer, and Daniel W. Moylan, a Hagerstown lawyer.