

Agnew Novel's Hero Reported To Be a Vice President of U.S.

By ERIC PACE

The hero of the novel that former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has proposed to write is a lawyer with Presidential ambitions who has been appointed Vice President after his predecessor has died of a heart attack, informed sources said yesterday.

Mr. Agnew submitted a sample chapter of the proposed novel to Joseph M. Fox, a senior editor at Random House, but the company turned the idea down because "it was not suitable for the Random House list" of published books, the publishing concern's president, Robert L. Bernstein, said.

Mr. Bernstein did not elaborate on that point, but he said, "We were distressed that information had leaked" about Mr. Agnew's proposal, and added, "We have been assured that the source was not at Random House or through Random House."

There was no indication of why Mr. Agnew had taken his book idea to Mr. Fox, a well-known publishing figure who is the editor of Arthur Koestler, Truman Capote, Peter Matthiessen and George Plimpton. Mr. Fox was said to be in seclusion yesterday, after first reports of the Agnew project came out.

No Agnew Comment

Mr. Agnew's office declined to comment on the matter, and there was no indication of whether or where he might submit his book proposal next.

It was understood however, that the plot is set in 1983, and that the Vice President is deceived by militant Iranian nationalists who wish, for complicated reasons, to force a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in the Middle East in

order to break the Soviet-American detente.

The other main characters include the President and the Vice President's chief Secret Service guard and secretary—who have a romance, according to one informant; the sample chapter, the first in the book, takes place on the Vice President's plane, Air Force Two.

Also aboard the aircraft are some journalists, it was understood, some of them congenial and some uncongenial.

In addition to the chapter, Mr. Agnew submitted a plot synopsis and some character sketches, it was understood, and the ending he proposed was a happy one.