

Agnew Visiting Sinatra-- With Federal Bodyguards

Palm Springs

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accompanied by Secret Service bodyguards, is a house guest of Frank Sinatra at Rancho Mirage, a desert community near here.

Agnew and his entourage flew in to Palm Spring airport from Washington, Tuesday afternoon and were driven to Sinatra's home fronting the Tamarisk Golf Club course.

Agnew is expected to take part in a celebration of Jack

Benny's 80th birthday over the weekend.

But even as Agnew was settling in at his friend's desert home, the continued assignment of Secret Service men to guard the former vice president around-the-clock was again being assailed in Washington.

Representative John E. Moss (Dem-Calif.), who has led congressional challenges to the propriety of maintaining Secret Service protection for Agnew, said Agnew's Palm Springs trip is "an affront to every taxpayer in America."

Moss said in a House speech that Agnew was accompanied by from 12 to 21 Secret Service agents. He said he could not find out the exact number because the Secret Service declined to tell him on grounds that the national security was involved.

He added that the trip "is an eight-day vacation and a possible writing period of his book."

The General Accounting Office two weeks ago questioned the legality of Secret Service protection of Agnew — provided on President Nixon's order.

Moss said the GAO reported cost of the protection from October 10, when Agnew resigned, through December 15 was \$89,222.

an opinion from Comptroller General Elmer B. Staats that the Treasury Department's position that Agnew is entitled to Secret Service protection is untenable.

At his request, Moss said, the GAO is looking into ways the expenditure of funds for the Secret Service escort might be halted and the amount spent since Agnew left office recovered.

He said he had obtained

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