

Humphrey Returns Gem Given to His Wife

Washington

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey turned over to the State Department yesterday an eight-carat diamond given to his wife by President Joseph Mobutu of the Congo, in 1968, the senator's office confirmed.

A spokesman for Humphrey said the diamond was flown in from Minneapolis to Washington and picked up at Humphrey's office yesterday afternoon to be turned to the Protocol Office.

The action follows a series of recent reports of gifts to government officials from foreign governments.

The gifts are the property

of the government under provisions of the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act.

In a statement issued by his office, Humphrey said that he did not realize that the act covered members of his family.

Humphrey said that on all trips he was accompanied by a State Department protocol officer and was never told gifts should be placed in the custody of the government.

A Humphrey spokesman said the gifts were catalogued by the State Department in 1968, but then were returned to Humphrey.

Associated Press