

Agnew-Coors Deal Unlikely

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By Tom Curtis

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HOUSTON, Aug. 6—Spiro T. Agnew is apparently out of the running for a Coors beer distributorship in Texas, but John B. Connally and 5,000 other Texans still have a chance for one.

Agnew and Houston golfer Doug Sanders applied jointly for a Coors distributorship in Houston, where thirsty residents quaff 15 million cases of beer annually. Although Coors, of Golden, Colo., said Agnew would be considered equally with other applicants, rules of the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission would seem to block his bid.

As quoted by an ABC spokesman today, the rules require beer distributors to have been residents of Texas for three years prior to making application and forbid granting a distributorship to those

sentenced within two years as a result of a felony conviction. Agnew pleaded nolo contendere to federal tax evasion on Oct. 10, 1973, just after he resigned as Vice President.

Coors says its beer is the fourth-largest in U.S. sales volume. Brewed only in Golden, using Rocky Mountain spring water there, it is unpasteurized and requires distributors to provide refrigerated trucks and refrigerated warehouses to prevent spoilage. Although some consider Coors to be watery tasting, it has legions of supporters.

In Texas, Coors is available only in Dallas, Fort Worth and El Paso. The company said it plans to extend distribution to the rest of the state next April.

Coors spokesman Bert Summers said about 5,000 persons have applied for Texas distrib-

utorships, among them Connally and another former Texas governor, Allan Shivers. Neither Summers nor Houston beer distributors would estimate how much a Coors distributorship might be worth, although Texas is a lucrative beer market.

In Houston, 42 per cent of the beer now sold annually is Schlitz, according to Schlitz distributor Hal Hillman, who said he was not much worried by the potential competition.

"They're going to have more trouble here than they've had elsewhere because Texas is the last stronghold of the local brand and also because Coors has got less than 3.2 per cent alcoholic content," Hillman said. "Still," he added, "this Agnew thing is going to be worth a million dollars to them in publicity."

Asked about the alcoholic

content, a Coors spokesman said the company manufactures two grades, the higher of which has an alcoholic content of 3.44 per cent by weight, and the lower 3.13 per cent by weight.

Asked the alcoholic content by weight of Schlitz beer sold in Texas, Hillman said he believed it was 3.8 or 3.9 per cent, but no Schlitz officials here or in the Milwaukee headquarters could be reached to confirm this.

Insects Plague Nigeria

Agence France-Presse

LAGOS, Aug. 6—Insects have destroyed crops worth an estimated \$10 million in Nigeria's Northwestern state, which was already suffering from the effects of last year's drought, according to reports here.