

Agnew Withdraws Bid For Coors Franchise

GOLDEN, Colo., Aug. 18 (UPI)—Former Vice President Agnew has withdrawn his application to sell Coors beer in Houston because he feared bad publicity might harm chances of a license for pro golfer Doug Sanders, the brewery company said today.

An Adolf Coors Co. spokesman said Agnew requested his application be scrapped in a letter to marketing officials of the brewery.

Agnew and Sanders applied for the franchise Aug. 4. The company said their application was among 4,000 asking rights to distribute the beer in Texas.

Since Agnew filed, hundreds of letters have been received by Coors opposed to the application.

"Agnew said he felt in light of recent publicity that it would only be fair to the people he was associated with to withdraw his name so it

would not impair their chances to obtain a Coors franchise," the company said.

Earlier this month, Texas officials said Agnew could not qualify as a distributor in the state because of his 1973 nolo contendere plea to U.S. income tax evasion in Maryland and because he had not resided in Texas for three years prior to application.

The brewery earlier announced a distributorship had been awarded retired Dallas Cowboy football player Bob Lilly for the Waco, Tex. area, but said a decision on the Agnew - Sanders application would be made later.

Agnew applied after the company announced earlier this year it was expanding marketing operations in Texas. The company, headquartered in Golden, Colo., originally sold the beer only in Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso and parts of west Texas.