

Dispute Over Agnew Probation

Baltimore

An attorney for Spiro Agnew argued yesterday that the former vice president has obeyed the law since resigning in 1973 and his probation should not be revoked.

Agnew has been accused by a Miami lawyer of being an unregistered foreign agent for Arab nations, and the Justice Department has said he was tardy in surrendering to the State Department gifts from foreign governments accepted while in office.

Attorney W. Lee Harrison told U.S. District Judge Roszel Thomsen that Agnew surrendered all foreign gifts worth more than \$50 in 1974 and did not represent foreign governments.

The hearing was ordered after Miami attorney Sam Polur filed suit demanding that Agnew's probation be revoked. The judge did not say if he will hold formal hearings, but a decision is expected in a few days.

Agnew, promoting his book "The Canfield Affair" in Atlanta, said the suit was "ridiculous."

"I will testify personally I never had any kind of connection with Arab nations," he said.

Thomsen ordered the Justice Department investigation last October 10 when Agnew's probation expired. The judge said in ordering the inquiry that he was retaining jurisdiction until assured that Agnew had satisfied the terms of his probation.

Agnew resigned the vice presidency October 10, 1973, after pleading no contest to income tax evasion. The plea climaxed an investigation into charges he accepted kickbacks while governor of Maryland.

He was fined \$10,000 and placed on three years of unsupervised probation.

Since his resignation, Agnew has operated an export-import business in nearby Crofton.

United Press