

Agnew Tones Down His Speech After Viewing President on TV

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BOISE, Idaho, May 8—Vice President Agnew, delivering a speech tonight, toned down a text that came down hard on America's dissenters, saying he wanted "in some small way" to help cool the temper of the nation.

Mr. Agnew's office had released his prepared speech in advance. In it he turned his fire from student dissenters to the "tired, embittered elders" who oppose the Administration.

But, after watching President Nixon's news conference on television, he told his audience at a Republican dinner that he no longer wanted to say what the text said.

The Vice President said he

did not "author these paragraphs" that were released by his office, but neither would he apologize for them. He said they reflected his thinking, but "the rhetoric was not mine."

He denied that Mr. Nixon had "muzzled" him but said he was following the President's advice in an attempt to "help cool in some small way" the situation facing the nation.

'Jeremiahs' Assailed

By ROBERT M. SMITH

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 8—Vice President Agnew's prepared text had said that a group of

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"Jeremiahs" had recently "heightened their shrill attacks" on the President's policies in Southeast Asia.

It said they did this "to rekindle the debilitating fires of riots and unrest that had been banked" by the President's commitment to end the war.

In a speech written for a Republican dinner in Boise, Idaho, Mr. Agnew said that at times of crisis, debate has always included "a cadre of Jeremiahs—normally a gloomy coalition of choleric young intellectuals and tired, embittered elders."

"We intend to make clear to the enemy," Mr. Agnew said, "that they cannot repeatedly ignore our warnings and escalate their attacks in Indochina. We intend to reaffirm our credibility and decisiveness when these qualities have been sharply questioned, not only by Hanoi but by others.

"The relevance to the Middle East situation should be obvious. We intend to insure that there are no miscalculations in Southeast Asia and elsewhere around the world which could lead to dangerous confrontations in the future."

Although the bulk of Mr. Agnew's speech was a sober recitation of the American action in Cambodia and the reasons for it, the Vice President began

with his attack on the "cadre of Jeremiahs" and twice singled out for criticism Senator J. W. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, who is an outspoken foe of the President's policies in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Agnew quoted the Senator as having told the Senate "the central fact about Indochina, including Vietnam, is that it doesn't matter much who rules in those small and backward lands."

'Makes No Difference'

The Vice President said that Mr. Fulbright had "attacked the American presence in Southeast Asia because it makes no difference to the poor and uneducated whether they are ruled by dictators or democracies."

Mr. Agnew charged that the Senator's remarks constituted "the baldest and most reactionary plea for isolationism heard in that chamber since the heyday of the 'America-Firsters.'"

At another point the Vice President said he wanted to emphasize that the United States was not increasing its demands at the Paris talks.

"All of our negotiating offers remain on the table," he said.

"If negotiations continue to be blocked, and the Communist delegation does no more than continue to read statements from Senator Fulbright at our negotiators, then we shall pursue Vietnamization and withdrawal."

Mr. Agnew also reiterated the Administration's plea for

public support of its Asian policy.

"This is indeed the moment for this nation to stand firm," he said. "I am certain in my own mind that our ability to achieve a just peace depends above all upon the character of the American people, and that character must find expression in a firm spirit."

Citing a statement by the late Adlai Stevenson that in matters of national security, emotion was no substitute for intelligence, Mr. Agnew urged his listeners not to "allow the emotional attacks or the rigid mythology of liberal ideologues to drown out objective discussion and analysis of the events of recent weeks in the Vietnam War." The Vice President then recounted the Administration's explanation of the need for operations in Cambodia.

He reported that "allied operations to date are proceeding with considerably greater success than anticipated."

"Casualties have been light, and we are already beginning to turn up significant caches, including some supplies donated by American peace groups," he said.

Mr. Agnew also said that most of the countries of Southeast Asia had privately or publicly expressed approval of the American action in Cambodia.

The Vice President had been scheduled to speak at noon today to the Wyoming State Republican Convention at Cody, Wyo., but his flight was cancelled because of poor visibility at the Cody airport.

As part of his Wyoming visit, the Vice President was to have given a lift to the campaign of Representative John Wold, who is attempting to unseat Senator Gale W. McGee, one of the chief targets of the Republican effort in this fall's Congressional election.

Agnew on Muzzling

BOISE, Idaho, May 8 (UPI)—Mr. Agnew told newsmen at the airport here that a Nixon staff member had called him after the President promised to moderate criticism of students.

"The President wanted me to understand thoroughly he was not attempting to put any kind of muzzle on me and that he was not opposed to the kind of things I have been saying," the Vice President said.

He said he would continue to oppose "criminal conduct" in antiwar rallies but emphasized that "we never meant to imply that a great majority of the students were involved in this kind of conduct."

"Dissent can be handled without violence," Mr. Agnew said.

He said that editorial writers who had urged the President to muzzle him were "the same persons who continually say I'm opposing their right to free speech."

"I would think the First Amendment freedoms apply to the Vice President of the United States as well as to dissenters," he said.