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# Educators Say Nixon Didn't Vow to Quiet Agnew

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WASHINGTON, May 9—Several of the university presidents who met with President Nixon last Thursday said today that Mr. Nixon was correct in denying he had promised to "muzzle" or "censor" Vice President Agnew.

At a news conference after the 80-minute meeting of the eight university presidents with Mr. Nixon, the group's spokesman, Nathan M. Pusey, president of Harvard, read a statement saying that the nationwide frustration and anger of students and faculty were the result of "developments in Southeast Asia, hostile comments by members of the Administration about campus events and persons, and the tragic incidents that have occurred on several campuses."

When asked by a reporter whether Mr. Nixon had assured them that the "hostile" statements would stop, Mr. Pusey said, "Yes." Although he would not directly say that the President had specifically included Mr. Agnew in this pledge, Mr. Pusey did say, "I think there will be an opportunity of testing it [the President's pledge] fairly soon."

This was taken as a reference to speeches that the Vice President was to deliver last night in Boise, Idaho, and today at Stone Mountain, Georgia, at the dedication of a Confederate memorial.

Mr. Pusey also said the group had given the President "our views" on Mr. Agnew's attacks on college dissenters and university presidents, including Kingman Brewster of Yale and Robben W. Fleming of the University of Michigan.

But in his news conference last night, Mr. Nixon said that, while the educators "raised questions about the Vice President" and his "rhetoric," he had not indicated to them

"that I was going to muzzle the Vice President, that I was going to censor him."

In a telephone interview late last night, Charles J. Hitch, president of the University of California, said:

"I thought what the President said tonight was very much what he said to us. He didn't promise to muzzle the Vice President. He said very much what he said tonight—that when the action is hot, it is important to keep the language cool."

### No Promise Made

Malcolm Moos, president of the University of Minnesota and a former official in the Eisenhower Administration, also agreed in a telephone interview today that there was no promise to make Mr. Agnew temper his language. Mr. Moos added, however, that Mr. Nixon did say "that he thought this rhetoric ought to be turned around."

Mr. Moos also said today that he had mentioned Mr. Agnew's speech at Stone Mountain and that the President replied, "Don't worry about this one, Mac, I wrote it myself." (Mr. Nixon had originally been scheduled to make the speech but, at the urging of his staff, canceled his appearance.)

On Thursday, Mr. Moos reported that, in referring to the Stone Mountain speech, Mr. Nixon said: "You don't have to

worry about that; the Vice President's speech will be a different one."

Fred Harvey Harrington, president of the University of Wisconsin, said last night that he thought Mr. Pusey's statement had not been too clear and that his meaning had been misinterpreted. Mr. Harrington also said the President assured the group that the Vice President "certainly isn't going to say anything [at Stone Mountain] that will offend you people. I have written it myself."

### 'Got No Commitments'

Edward H. Levi, president of the University of Chicago, said today that he was not at the news conference and did not know precisely what Mr. Pusey had said. "But my recollection [of the White House meeting] is that we asked for no commitments and we got no commitments," Mr. Levi said.

William C. Friday, president of the University of North Carolina, asked not to be quoted. W. Allen Wallis, president of the University of Rochester, could not be reached. Mr. Pusey said that he would have no comments, and so did Alexander Heard, chancellor of Vanderbilt University, who, at Mr. Nixon's request, will take two months off to try to develop lines of communication between the academic community and the Administration.