

# Agnew Unit to Aid South's Integration

APR 21/70  
Vice President Agnew said yesterday that he will be chairman of a Cabinet-level group that will work to carry out "in the least disruptive way" the Supreme Court's order to desegregate Southern schools at once.

Agnew, observing that "it is not always easy to decide what is compliance" with the high court's decision, described the group as a "council to reach accord through discussion and dialogue." He added:

"This is a top-level group to attempt to bring the restoration of quality education to those districts who feel that in the construction previously given to the decisions of the court that they suffered to some extent."

The Vice President said the

group "is not meant to replace" enforcement machinery now residing in the Departments of Justice and Health, Education and Welfare. The Attorney General, John N. Mitchell, and the Secretary of HEW, Robert H. Finch, will be members of the group, he said.

Turning to Vietnam in his appearance on the television interview program "Face the Nation" (CBS-WTOP), Agnew hardened the warning, repeated often by high members of the Nixon administration, that the President's Vietnamization program will have its setbacks.

"There isn't any doubt that sometime in the next year will come an offensive that will result in a limited victory for the North over some South Vietnamese unit," he said, "No doubt about it."

But Agnew cautioned, "This doesn't mean that a military victory of any consequence has been achieved, and it is important that it not be blown out of perspective in the total effort of Vietnamization."

Agnew suggested that in the matter of perspective, "the media must undertake a tremendous responsibility." He said that on his Asian tour, Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, "expressed a grave fear that we might get out of Vietnam too soon... that a small victory over an ARVN (South Vietnamese army) unit could be blown up to appear to be a total defeat for Vietnamization."

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# Agnew Unit To Act on Integration

AGNEW, From A1

Agnew said he was "certain" that Mr. Nixon would not be "pressured into making withdrawals of a more ambitious nature in point of time than can be coped with by the ARVN troops."

He said the administration is "not going to get in trouble" as long as it is "able to make the withdrawals in a manner commensurate with the ability of the South Vietnamese to provide for their own defense."

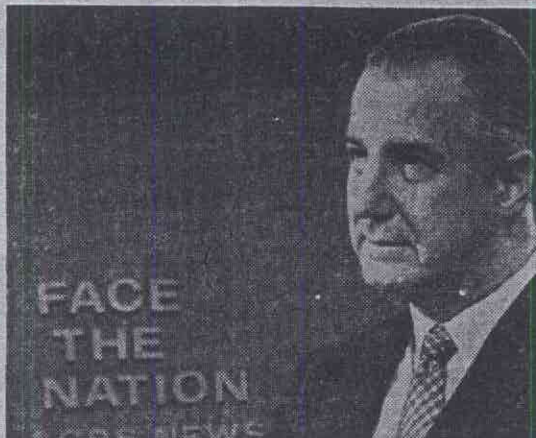
The Vice President's disclosure that Mr. Nixon "will shortly announce the formation" of a Cabinet-level group to help Southern school districts carry out the Supreme Court's decision came in response to a question on how the administration "is going to make life a little easier for the Southerners" in an election year.

Agnew said firmly, "We are not trying to make life easier for anybody . . . when the courts of this country speak, the Executive Branch of the government and this administration will perform its obligations under the Constitution."

"It is ridiculous," he said, "to be an advocate of law and order in one sense and attempt to circumvent it in another sense."

Agnew said that much of the difficulty arising from the Supreme Court's orders "has been through misunderstanding of what the court really meant and what the people have taken out of the court's statements and what the Department of HEW and the Attorney General's office may have promulgated in the way of regulations."

He said a task force on education will be formed to "work with the school districts having the most difficulty to achieve the spirit and the letter of the court decisions in a way that might least impair the continuance of quality education in those districts." He said the task force would be



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Vice President Agnew: To restore quality education.

made up of "distinguished Southern educators of both parties and both races."

The Vice President would not elaborate on the methods of the Cabinet-level group other than that it would receive reports of the task force and would attempt "to guide the district into coming into conformity with the decisions."

Observing that there has been dispute on just what "compliance" is, Agnew said the group would try to bring all differing parties together—HEW officials, citizens, such outside groups as the NAACP—to "sit down and reach accord through a dialogue and a discussion."

Agnew repeated his opposition to busing of students as a way to achieve racial balance in schools. But he pointed out that there are all kinds of busing, and "we have got to look at each busing situation on its own merits and make our decision as a result of what we see."

On his own image and appeal, Agnew admitted candidly, "I would be dishonest if I said I didn't think I . . . do have an appeal in the South."

"I think it comes about," he said, "not because I am expressing any extremist philosophy, but because I have not been quite as careful about being misunderstood and exploited by certain left extreme groups who utilize any compassion for the unique problems of the South, and for what I consider the undue

untoward victimization of the South at the expense of achieving the objectives that we all know we must achieve in the field of desegregation of our society."

He said he appeals to the South "because I am not afraid to support the South, to understand the South, to assist the South in reaching the objectives set forth by the courts in a way that is least disruptive."

The Vice President also had these comments:

- On his own preparedness to assume the presidency in an emergency: "My briefing is a continuing process because I sit in all of the high councils . . ."

"Over and above that, the President and I talk . . . frequently enough that I am aware of any departures in his thinking that might affect what I say. In addition to that, I consult with the top counselors, the President's staff, on a day-to-day basis, and I do feel able to take over at any time in the event of an emergency."

- On law and order: "You just take a look at the complexion of society in the country compared with last year and the year before that, and you'll see that a great amount of peace and stability has returned to the United States . . . We are trying to do something about the crime situation, and I am hopeful that the Congress will act on the proposals still before it . . ."