

Agnew Raps Moratorium

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PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

“The mob, the mobilization, the moratorium have become somewhat fashionable forms of citizen expression” that are “negative in content and disruptive in effect” and prove nothing, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said

Monday.

Agnew said mass street demonstrations were pointless and predicted that their popularity would diminish.

“They inflame emotions rather than stimulate solutions,” he said in a speech at the 75th annual conference of the National Municipal League.

“Protest is every citizen’s right, but that does not insure that every protest is right,” the vice president said.

“Turning out a few hundred thousand people in a nation of 200 million proves nothing in the way of a public mandate. We can speed the demise of carnival in the streets by withholding our sympathy. We can blunt its adverse impact by seizing the initiative.”

Speaking out as both critics and supporters of President Nixon’s policy began a week of demonstrations centering on America’s involvement in Vietnam, the vice president called for recognition of a “silent young majority, who go to

school, and to work, and to war if necessary.”

“They are the nonshouting concerned, the nonradical responsible, the noncomplacent constructive activists of the under-30 generation,” Agnew said. “Their idealism is disciplined by reason.”

Agnew linked these young people with the “silent majority” which “we know . . . is in this country.”

“This is the majority that President Nixon addressed on his Vietnam policy last week, and the majority that responded with such resounding support,” the vice president said.

Then turning again to the silent young majority Agnew challenged it “to make itself heard, to come to its own defense.”

He said they had been “overshadowed by the strident minority who allocate unto themselves voice, virtue and power out of proportion to their numbers and even more out of proportion to their abilities.”