



By Harry Naltchayan, The Washington Post

Vice President tells governors that "the threat of violent revolution . . . is clear and present danger."

Agnew Deplores Focus on 'Kooks'

By Don Oberdorfer 2/27/70
Washington Post Staff Writer

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew appealed to the nation yesterday to pay less attention to "kooks . . . demagogues . . . societal misfits" who he said have pre-empted the television screens and front pages of America.

Agnew made the plea in a televised address to the National Governors' Conference at the Washington Hilton.

"It is time for the political business and academic leaders of this country to lead a figurative march back to normalcy," Agnew declared.

He proposed that everyone elected to governmental responsibility should speak out against extreme and disruptive conduct and against the atten-

tion" is a "clear and present danger." He asked the governors to react automatically, briskly and effectively against the threat.

Except for one brief burst of laughter at the suggestion that the "misfits" be pursued with butterfly nets rather than television cameras, the governors listened in silence and with an apparent fascination.

Most of them had not heard their former colleague in person since his "give 'em hell" speech-making phase began some weeks ago, although virtually all of them had read about it or had watched excerpts on television.

Agnew read the 20-minute address nearly word-for-word from a prepared text. Aides said the controversial part was "pure S.T.A." and had been written personally by the Vice President earlier in the day.

When he finished speaking, the governors gave him a standing ovation as he walked from the room. Then they turned to face newsmen asking for comment on the speech.

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tion accorded it.

The Vice President asserted that the greatest issue facing the country today is "not the war in Vietnam, nor inflation, nor the environment . . . (but) it is: Will the government of this country remain in the hands of its elected officials or will it descend to the streets?"

At another point, he said that "the threat of violent rev-

Agnew Urges Nation to Pay Less Attention to 'Misfits'

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Gov. John A. Love of Colorado, chairman of the conference, said the speech represented "what he (Agnew) thinks." As for his own view, Love said, "I can't put it in a capsule for you."

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York said "everyone

has a right to his opinion—including the Vice President." Of his own view, Rockefeller would say only that "a lot of people agree with some things and disagree with other things." He would not elaborate.

Gov. John Dempsey of Connecticut called it "a pretty good speech, a typical speech

of his, in tune with the times." He said it was difficult to decide how a governor should react to the appeal because "it is awfully hard to judge what leadership really is."

Gov. Robert McNair of South Carolina called it "a real fine speech." Gov. Marvin Mandel, who succeeded Agnew in the Maryland governorship, had no comment.

Gov. Dan Evans of Washington said the speech expressed the feelings of "the vast majority of people who are tired, annoyed and somewhat frustrated over conflict in the country." Evans interpreted the address in part as a call for greater citizen involvement, "which is what we need instead of finger pointing at each other."

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United Press International

Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller points the way to a Capitol meeting of Hill leaders and National Governors'

Conference officials for brother Nelson, governor of New York, and Pennsylvania Gov. Raymond Shafer.