

T-P 10/19/70

# Crime Is Crime, V-P Reminds Country

## 'Assignment of Political Reasons Gives Rationale to Criminal Acts'

By PAUL ATKINSON

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew Thursday lashed out at the change in national thinking that allows a criminal to "designate the reason for his criminal activity to some lofty political motive."

Speaking to an exclusive press conference for the editorial and news staffs of The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States-Item at the newspapers' building, Vice President Agnew said such thinking

Text of Vice President Agnew's comments will be found in Sec. 1, Page 20.

"takes away a lot of the deterrent to crime when those people characterize themselves as political activists."

The vice president wound up a two-day stay late in the afternoon and flew into Fort Smith, Ark., for another of his whirlwind political visits, seeking to bolster Republican chances in the coming November general elections.

Expanding upon his point of the metamorphosis he said is coming over America, Vice President Agnew continued, "They say, 'We liberated the hot dog stand.' We didn't steal the hot dogs. We

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# CRIME IS CRIME, SAYS AGNEW

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trashed the neighborhood to show our contempt for the free enterprise system.

## 'GREAT STIMULUS'

"This assignment of political reasons gives a rationale to criminal conduct and it is a great stimulus to people who want to perform their criminal acts for the same old benefits of assisting themselves personally. They are now able to say they are doing it for the community."

The vice president fielded questions for the news staffs for better than 80 minutes.

He touched on many topics. Other highlights include these:

—Regional planning could be the savior of urban areas. "We will never be able to solve the problem of the urban-impacted areas—cities and counties—until the governors, county officials and mayors take the leadership and recognize the problems have to be solved on a regional planning basis," said Vice President Agnew.

—He still has high hopes for the United States in the space race. "I think we are going to go along with it," he said. "Not as fast as first predicted after the heady wine of that first successful moon landing, but I do believe it is a very important thing to proceed with."

## DENIES CHANGE

—Vice President Agnew denied that he has really changed from a liberal to a conservative. "Now where I left the liberal philosophy was when it began to develop into a rationalization and acceptance of unlawful, disruptive conduct," said the vice president. "I felt the same way about that then as I do now. In short, what I am saying to you is I haven't changed."

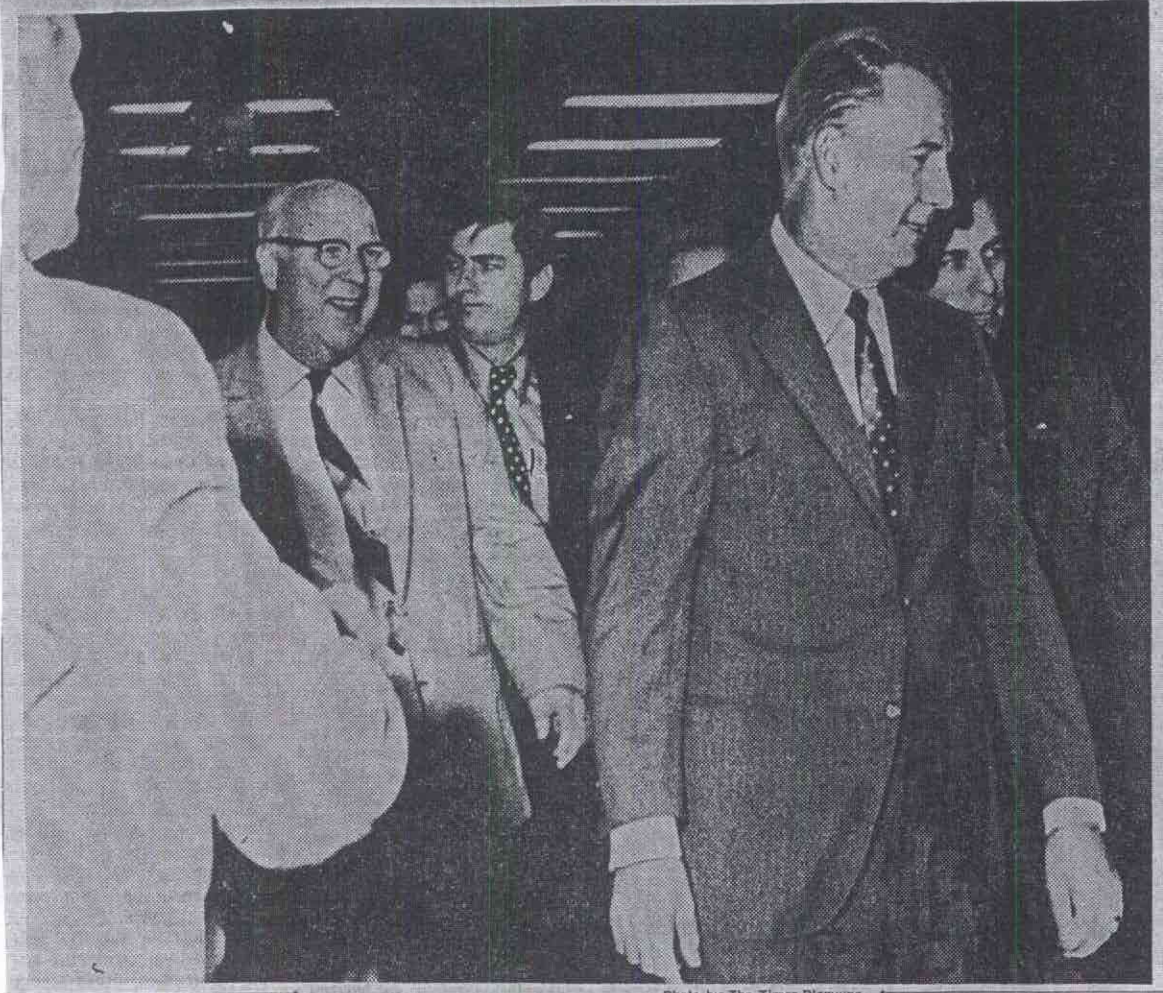
—He once again attacked with vigor and vim Republican Sen. Charles E. Goodell, labeling him a "radical liberal." He said that the Administration, should independent James L. Buckley win the Senate seat, wouldn't "go over in a corner and cry."

—He characterized his present tour of the hot spots in Republican races as "a highly-political one." The Vice President explained, "My assignment is to elect people of the philosophical, ideological and political background who will support President Nixon's programs. In order to do this, I must distinguish between them and the people they are running against."

"There is not an attempt on my part to polarize over such matters as race, or creed, or purely a political polarization.



## Vice President Arrives for Meeting with Press



—Photo by The Times-Picayune.  
PUBLISHER ASHTON PHELPS of The Times-Picayune Publishing Corp. follows Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and his party to the conference room of the newspaper building Thursday where the vice president conferred with the staffs of The Times-Picayune and New Orleans States-Item.

We are out to attract as many voters as we can to the programs that we think are best for the country. We want Democrats as well as Republicans. This is the kind of polarization I refer to as positive polarization."

Leaving the newspaper offices, the vice president returned to the Royal Orleans Hotel at 11:45 a.m. where he met his longtime friend of New Orleans, William G. Helis Jr., for lunch at Brennan's Restaurant.

#### DINE TOGETHER

The two also dined together Wednesday night at Antoine's Restaurant.

Agnew and Helis walked from the hotel to Brennan's, entering the restaurant at 12:54 p.m. and leaving at 2:27 p.m. A sizeable crowd stood outside both the hotel and restaurant and ran after Agnew as he walked amid a battery of Secret Servicemen. He shook hands with those who leaned over the police barricade.

A larger crowd gathered on the grounds of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission building at 400 Royal after the vice president returned to the hotel from lunch.

At 3:45 p.m., he again emerged from the hotel and stepped in the vice presidential limousine to be driven to the airport.

After motoring from New Orleans, Agnew arrived at the General Aviation ramp of New Orleans International Airport shortly after 4 p.m., and took several minutes to speak to the press.

As he has done many times,

the vice president took the opportunity to attack lawlessness in the land. Of the criminal element, he said, "Unless they change their objectives, I suppose we have to condemn them in a blanket fashion."

#### COMPLIMENTS FOOD

But in a lighter vein, he used his parting moments to hand the Crescent City a left-handed compliment. Speaking of the city's celebrated eateries, he said:

"The food here is outstanding. I'm glad it's not too often I get to come. I would have a terrible time trying to maintain any kind of physical fitness if I had to stay here too long."

After shaking hands with a line of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish law officers, Agnew boarded the sleek, blue and white Eastern Air Lines Boeing 727 Whisperjet. The plane rolled from the ramp at 4:17 p.m. and left the runway en route to Fort Smith at 4:25 p.m.