

Agnew Leaves For D.C.

See Pictures on Page 15.

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew left the Crescent City for Washington this afternoon after a 24-hour visit that included both a rousing political banquet and a quiet lunch in the French Quarter with an old New Orleans friend.

Agnew's plane climbed into the skies shortly before 2 p.m. from New Orleans International Airport.

The vice president left his seventh-floor suite at the Royal Orleans Hotel about 11:30 a.m. for Brennan's Restaurant and a midday meal with New Orleanian William G. Helis Jr.

Following an almost-traditional schedule for his New Orleans visits (four during the last two years), Agnew waved and smiled at about 150 well-wishers on St. Louis and Royal Streets as he walked to the restaurant.

Last night, the vice president told a ballroom full of supporters that, if the Nixon administration has its way, state and local governments will be given a larger share of the federal dollar with no strings attached.

Addressing a \$100-a-plate banquet at the Jung Hotel, Agnew scored the Democratic Party's national leadership for looking on "a normal individual as a semi-ward of the nation."

The vice president maintained the present Republican administration has brought sweeping changes to the structure of national government by streamlining assistance programs and by relying more on remedial solutions to problems than by "extending the system."

"IF THE CONGRESS cooperates," said Agnew, "the President will change the federal system much more than by bringing efficiency to a previously confused hodge-podge of overlapping programs."

"The keystone of the new federalism is revenue sharing—giving state and local governments an unfettered share of the tax resources."

"This will reverse the power flow from Washington back to the states and localities. It is a vote of confidence in the concept of shared powers established in the Constitution nearly

200 years ago. I am confident that there will be enough of an approving groundswell from governors and mayors of both political parties to get this innovation enacted."

Discussing philosophical differences between Democrats and the GOP, the vice president told the 1,400 in his audience he was aware it included many Democrats.

"BUT I DON'T believe you'd be here if you didn't feel that President Nixon and I more closely represent your views than do the leaders who now speak for the Democratic party at the national level."

He told the crowd he regards them as "philosophical brethren and include you in our group, which I would loosely describe for purposes of this discussion as 'centrist-moderate-conservative.'"

Among the Democrats in the vice president's audience were Secretary of State Wade O. Martin Jr., former Lou-

Turn to Page 8, Column 1

Continued from Page 1

isiana Gov. Sam H. Jones, former Mayor Victor H. Schiro and 1969 mayoral candidate James E. Fitzmorris Jr.

Prior to his speech, Agnew was made an "honorary Cajun" by Charles de Gravelles of Lafayette, state chairman of the Republican Party. De Gravelles also ordained that the vice president change the spelling of his first name to "Spireaux."

AGNEW LATER predicted that the Democratic party's days are numbered in the South.

"From now on," he said, "thoughtful Southerners will insist they have the opportunity to select, from viable competing parties, the candidates most qualified and most representative of their views."

The GOP will win its share of elections in Louisiana, he added, "because it will field top flight candidates — people like your outstanding state Sen. Ace (A. C.) Clemons (of Jennings) and Ben C. Toledano, who made a fine race for mayor of New Orleans."

The vice president commended deGravelles and other party workers in Louisiana. "Those 59 parish executive committees did not bloom spontaneously," he said. "They came about through hard work."

Other Republican dignitaries present included three Louisiana members of the Republican National Committee — Mrs. H. Robert Lindh, Tom Stagg Jr.

and Mrs. H. Lamar Boese; Mrs. Henry Heitman, president of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Republican Clubs, and Jerry Modisette, state chairman of the Louisiana Young Republican Federation.

Toledano was dinner chairman, with Martin L. C. Feldman and Jack M. Gordon serving as co-chairmen.

DURING HIS talk, the vice president recalled the 1969 speech he made in the Crescent City which quickly gained national attention by his referring to his opponents as "effete snobs."

"Irrespective of the jerks and quivers of my critics," Agnew said last night, "I fully intend to continue to

speak out on the issues in accordance with my convictions."

The Nixon Administration's decentralization of federal assistance programs has gone largely unnoticed, said the vice president.

"WE CUT RED tape by the bundle," he quipped.

National Democrats, said Agnew, "have increasingly become oriented toward a terribly complicated, altruistic and unworkable plan designed to help the people, without the advice and consent of the people themselves."

On arrival yesterday afternoon at New Orleans International Airport, Agnew discounted the possibilities of federal wage and price controls to curb inflation.

"They never work," he said during an impromptu airport news conference, "and even the people who have advocated them are not too serious about them, as witness the fact that no legislation has surfaced in the Congress reflecting or mandating their implementation."

HE SAID HE looks for "substantial improvement" in the economy during the next six months "as the Vietnam war winds down."

Asked about the increasing combat activity in Vietnam and Cambodia during the last week, the vice president said, "A mere tactical consideration, an enemy flareup in Cambodia, is no evidence of any failure of the President in winding down the war."

SHORTLY AFTER his arrival, Agnew was engaged in a game of tennis at the uptown New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club on the invitation of Toledano.

Immediately following his speech

last night, the vice president was whisked to a waiting limousine on Canal Street in front of the Jung.

Flanking the hotel's entrance were two groups of people — one carrying anti-war pickets and another cheering and applauding.

"Tell 'em Spiro," shouted one supporter. "More power to the people," was the cry from the other side.