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Alliterative Agnew Paltry

By GENE BOURG

At some political banquets, it's what's left out that counts.

The unspoken word can ring louder than a carillon. An unmentioned name becomes more conspicuous than the dinner committee roster printed on the program.

Last night's \$100-a-plate bash for Vice President Spiro T. Agnew was a classic example.

LOUISIANA Republicans went all out for the veep and crammed the Jung Hotel's Grand Ballroom with 1,400 enthusiastic souls, some of them

prominent New Orleans Democrats. They no doubt expected another give-'em-hell tirade from the country's favorite hip-shooter.

But something went awry. Those catchy, alliterative phrases that have become an Agnew trademark never appeared. The Democrats were criticized, but not with the former Agnew fusillades.

"Bureaucratic pap" was the closest the vice president came to his pre-November phrasemaking. Gone were the "effete snobs," the "Christine Jorgensens of the Republican Party," the "pussyfooting, pusillanimous" Democratic radical-liberals of yore.

IN THEIR place the vice president substituted a speech that was more tempered than candid. The pepper was missing.

Agnew's talk was so high-minded, in fact, that The Associated Press' New Orleans bureau sent out only seven paragraphs on it.

There were other glaring omissions from the festivities.

The vice president gave high praise to Ben C. Toledano, the GOP standard-bearer in last April's mayoral election; to State Sen. A. C. Clemons, a possible Republican gubernatorial candidate next year, and to other party leaders.

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BUT ONE big name went unspoken—that of State Rep. James R. Sutterfield of New Orleans, the only present major office-holder in Louisiana who ran and won as a Republican.

Sutterfield has become the leader of a maverick faction in the Louisiana GOP structure. There was talk of a boycott of last night's banquet by the group, but Sutterfield himself was at the banquet, table-hopping and in apparent good spirits.

Another GOP standard-bearer who was present but officially unrecognized was Robert E. Lee, who opposed U.S. Rep. Hale Boggs Nov. 3 in the Second Congressional District. Lee got active

support from Sutterfield in his campaign.

TOLEDANO, chairman of the dinner committee, told newsmen yesterday afternoon that Sutterfield and his cohorts had been invited to take part in the affair but that they had declined.

Sutterfield today denied that his faction was invited at all. He said he attended on his own "only because of my respect for the vice president."

Beforehand, Sutterfield said, he was asked to send letters to certain attorneys asking them to participate and he did so. "That was the total amount

of their invitation for my involvement," he said.

HE SAID no boycott was intended, but "the part of the Republican party that most concerns me is comprised of people who think the party should elect candidates and if the money from fund raising does not go to candidates, I don't feel it is being as well spent as it should be."

He said he has been unable to get any accounting of how money from past fund-raising dinners has been spent and he and other GOP candidates around the state "have not been able to get one dime of it."