

Agnew Criticizes 'Madness' of Quotas

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew last night criticized what he called the "strange madness" promoting racial and economic "quotas" for college admissions and job advancement.

He said "the criterion of competence" was still the best guide.

Agnew made his remarks in a speech prepared for delivery at a \$100-a-plate Lincoln Day dinner in Chicago, his third fund-raising appearance this week. A text of his speech was released here.

"Neither a university, a business firm, nor a labor union should ever discriminate among applicants for membership upon any basis other than aptitude for learning and practicing its craft. But it should discriminate upon this basis," the Vice President told his audience.

"Where methodical instruction and extended training are needed to become qualified," he said, "it is right and proper that men should be treated as unequal."

Yet, Agnew continued, "by some strange madness," men in responsible academic posts seem to agree that "the untrained should help choose those to be trained and that membership, whether as students or teachers, in institu-

tions of higher learning should be determined fundamentally by considerations other than aptitude or learning."

The Vice President said he recognized that the criterion of competence has not always been adhered to in the past, but he said this was no reason to abandon it, "as happens when the concept of what is erroneously called 'open admissions' makes its way among some of our supercilious sophisticates."

Of those who would argue for ethnic, racial or socio-economic quotas in college and university admissions, Agnew said he would ask:

"When next you are sick, do you wish to be attended by a physician who entered medical school to fill a quota or because of his medical aptitude?"

"When next you travel by jet airplane, do you want to go in a plane designed by engineers selected to fill a quota or by aptitude? When next you build a house, do you want an architect selected for architectural school by aptitude or by quota?"

The Vice President said the same pressures that lead to the use of such quotas also operate to make those admitted under them appear "reasonably successful" in the courses they undertake. Agnew said he considered this both "pernicious and debilitating."