

Agnew Hits Press, 'Hell raisers,' 'Isolationists' in New Offensive

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Vice President Agnew came out swinging last night against editorial opinion in "the liberal news media of this country, those really illiberal, self-appointed guardians of our destiny who would like to run the country without ever submitting to the elective process as we in public office must do."

In a speech prepared for a Texas Republican fund-raising dinner in Houston, Agnew singled out the editorial writers of The Washington Post, New York Times, Atlanta Constitution, New Republic magazine

and I.F. Stone's Bi-Weekly; Post cartoonist Herblock; and columnists James Reston and Tom Wicker of The Times, Hugh Sidey of Life magazine, Pete Hamill and Harriet Van Horne of The New York Post and syndicated columnist Carl T. Rowan.

For good measure, he also blasted "a small hard core of hell-raisers" on college campuses as well as the "isolationists" in the U.S. Senate.

Two weeks ago last night, President Nixon told a news conference that he would not attempt to tone down or censor Agnew, but asked all members of the administration to

remember that "when the action is hot, keep the rhetoric cool." Agnew's response was to delete fiery rhetoric from a speech that night in Boise, Idaho, as a contribution to cooling "the volatile situation" in the country.

The following day in Stone Mountain, Ga., Agnew delivered a generally conciliatory address that originally had been written for Mr. Nixon.

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In a subsequent television news interview, Agnew said cooling of the rhetoric should begin on newspaper editorial pages and declared that "I unilaterally do not intend to withdraw."

Last night in Texas he gave the nation and the news media a taste of his renewed offensive. The rhetoric was some of the strongest of his short career as a stirrer of public controversy.

Agnew declared that "I intend to be heard above the din even if it means raising my voice." He said it is "nonsense" to contend that he should choose his language more carefully because "I have sworn I will uphold the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Most of his address consisted of anti-administration quotations from the newspapers and columnists, interspersed with his own comments and characterizations. The Vice President described the quotations as "wild, hot rhetoric" and said those who wrote them "are overwrought because their advice is not heeded by the President with any degree of regularity."

The Vice President said that one Washington Post editorial

"fulminated" and suggested that another editorial implied that President Nixon had lost his sanity. He said the view from The Washington Post editorial ivory tower is "hysterical," and described cartoonist Herblock as a "master of sick invective."

He charged The New York Times editorial page with "irresponsibility" and referred to Times columnist Tom Wicker as "the soft-spoken boy wonder of the opinion molders."

Columnist Pete Hamill in the "illiberal" New York Post was guilty of "irrational raving," he said.

Near the end of his address, Agnew contended that the press regards the First

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Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as "its own private preserve" but said that "it guarantees my free speech as much as it does their freedom of the press."

"I hope that will be remembered the next time a 'muzzle Agnew' campaign is launched," the Vice President said.