

GUESS WHO? "I have not the least doubt that the United States has the most self-demanding, least self-satisfied, most ingenious, least inhibited, best informed, least controlled, most professional, least subjective, most competitive, least party-line, fairest and finest journalistic complex in the entire world."

The speaker? None other than Vice President Spiro Agnew, addressing a meeting of the Associated Press managing editors in Honolulu.

The Vice President has embarked on an image-restructuring process. Herb Klein, President Nixon's inscrutable communications expert, will attempt to make Agnew more acceptable to the Fourth Estate by having him mouth similar hyperbole in future months. But Agnew may have already committed irreparable harm to his political career and his image by his no-holds-barred campaigning tactics of 1970.

Polls show that he has antagonized the press, the academic community, the blacks, other minorities, the intellectuals, the Democrats—in fact, many of society's segments Nixon must attract if he is to win the Presidential election of 1972.

Veteran political observers in Washington say that if there is the slightest doubt Agnew will prove more of a hindrance than a help to him, Nixon will replace Agnew as his running mate in '72. A possible replacement: Treasury Secretary John B. Connally, a Democrat who flirted with Nixon in the 1970 campaign and might well have delivered the state of Texas to the Republican Party if the enticements had been large enough.