

Agnew Sees U.S. Status Threatened

10/1/71
By Philip D. Carter
Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Sept. 30—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew warned today that America's position as the world's "No. 1" power is threatened by the erosion of the nation's competitive drive and traditional values.

Speaking at the national convention of the Society of Former FBI Agents, he assailed targets as varied as Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), the Senate majority that rejected the SST, The Washington Post, unnamed revolutionary "social philosophers" and academic "opponents" of the free enterprise system, the decline of "self-discipline" in the nation's high schools and colleges, the "insolence" of many sales clerks and repairmen, "give-away programs" and the "liberal and radical left."

He endorsed hard work, aggressive competition, sports, vocational education and the FBI and its director, J. Edgar Hoover.

The Vice President took par-

ticular issue with a Post editorial that followed President Nixon's recent address to a joint session of Congress on the nation's economic problems.

In the editorial, The Post supported the President's economic goals but chastized him for picturing "United States relations with other nations as a contest in which there are winners and losers, a pitting of 'us' against 'them.'"

The President, The Post said, was "appealing to all the basest, meanest and most chauvinistic values of the American people." Although The Post's editorial was devoted to economic affairs, the Vice President said:

"The steady diminution of what used to be overwhelmingly superior American military strength is not occurring solely because of our de-emphasis of preparedness and the so-called 'reordering of our priorities.' No, our approaching vulnerability is being accelerated by the dramatic increase in military strength that is being achieved by our principal competitors around the world.

"And, gentlemen, this is not happening because our competitors suppressed what The Washington Post called 'base, mean and chauvinistic' values.