

*Post 12-5-71*

## Agnew Hits Checkoff in GOP Talk

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 4 (UPI)—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew told Republican leaders from 13 Border and Southern states today that the Democratic drive to channel \$1 from each taxpayer into party coffers amounts to "spoils politics."

He said it "would make the old time bag and boodle politics pale by comparison," and predicted it would ruin the two-party system.

The Vice President spoke at a luncheon meeting of 1,000 elected GOP officials and delegates. Purpose of the two-day session is to start lining up support for President Nixon in the South, where Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace carried five states in 1968. Wallace may again enter the presidential race in 1972.

Agnew said that supporters of the political tax amendment say it is "needed to give the Democrats a fair chance in American politics.

"But the truth of the matter is that the opposition party—

which purports to represent the common man—does not attract the contributions of the common man."

Agnew claimed that Democratic leaders in Washington are following the GOP lead in seeking smaller contributions from more people. He claimed that nearly half of the funds for the Humphrey-Muskie campaign in 1968 came from 50 individuals.

Agnew, who headed back to Washington immediately after his brief appearance, said that "the massive public outcry against the \$1 tax checkoff proposal" had temporarily derailed it in Congress but there was still a chance that "the old political chestnut" might be dredged up in coming years.

He said many Democratic leaders were against a similar proposal in 1967 but they now supported it because of the financial plight of the party.

The Vice President said the tax proposal would create splinter parties through a stipulation that any party which gets 5 per cent of the vote in a national election would receive federal support. This, he said, would kill the two-party system.

"In a few years, the American people could be electing their President on a 20 per cent vote. Amoeba-like, it would proliferate to enfold an ever increasing share of our tax dollar," Agnew said.