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Democrats Tied to War By Agnew

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, blaming the Democrats for the war in Vietnam and the present state of the economy, declared yesterday that the 1972 presidential campaign would be waged squarely on those issues.

Along with what he called "the area of social policy," Agnew said these issues reflect the basic political dichotomy of our time," and predicted that the 1972 campaign will be a "re-run of 1968's with only some of the personalities changed."

At the same time, Agnew used a speech before the Northeastern Republican Conference here, to renew his attacks on the press, singling out both The Washington Post and Newsweek magazine for what he said was distortion of the administration's programs and failure to report its achievements.

On foreign policy, Agnew pledged that the Nixon administration would "go forward" towards a "just and stable peace" in Vietnam. He blamed previous Democratic administrations for a "disastrous policy that sent more than half a million fighting men into a war they were not permitted to win."

"No, it was never 'Nixon's War,'" Agnew said. "But make no mistake about it. It will be 'Nixon's Peace' and his alone."

Similarly, Agnew placed the blame for the current economic situation squarely at the feet of the Democrats who he accused of "irresponsible and short-sided policies."

Agnew went on to defend the President's domestic program, saying Democrats and the media had distorted his accomplishments. For instance, Agnew said, "no administration in history has accomplished as much in the expansion of minority rights and opportunities" and yet the President is the target of "Pavlovian assaults" on his civil rights record.