

Agnew Says 2 Reference Books Dangerously Rewrote U.S. History

Part 4/14/72
Vice President Spiro T. Agnew charged yesterday that "politicizing" by some standard reference works presents a danger to the American educational system.

In a speech to the Capitol Hill Club, a Republican social club, Agnew criticized two encyclopedias, which he did not name. His press secretary, Victor Gold, identified the publications as Encyclopedia Britannica and Collier's Year Book.

Agnew said one major reference work—identified by Gold as Encyclopedia Britannica—

had refused to publish a previously accepted study by Prof. Ernest van den Haag, a conservative scholar. The vice president called this "editorial bias."

Agnew said the other standard work—identified by Gold as Collier's Year Book—with "new leftward bias" on the basis of some of its descriptions of "people in the news" in its 1970 volume.

According to the Vice President, the publication described attorney William M. Kunstler as "one of the most remarkable" of a new group of courtroom lawyers, "who fights with conviction for causes that he feels are rele-

vant to social and political justice in America."

The same volume, Agnew said, described President Nixon as "President of the United States. . . but he is above all a politician."

Agnew charged that "Teachers and parents can no longer take it for granted that scholarly objectivity and thoroughness will be the standards in much of the material students use for basic reference."

Representatives of the Encyclopedia Britannica and of Crowell Collier & MacMillan Inc., publishers of Collier's Year Book, withheld comment on Agnew's charges pending a study of his speech.