

Agnew Tackles Hecklers, McGovern

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TAMPA, Sept. 29—Antiwar hecklers today interrupted Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's speech with cries of "murderer" and "sieg heil" while Agnew was criticizing Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern for inconsistency in opposing the Vietnam war.

Agnew, who paused calmly while a friendly crowd shouted back at the demonstrators, responded to his hecklers on several occasions. Only he said:

"I'll wait a few minutes to see whether some sort of cataleptic reaction will set in—or freezing of the vocal cords."

The Vice President cited McGovern support of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and his subsequent votes in favor of appropriations for the war. The words were almost identical with those used by Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey about the McGovern defense budget during the primary campaigns.

"George McGovern would cut the muscle from our security," Agnew quoted Humphrey as saying. "America will become a second-class power."

Agnew's appearance here, his first stop on a three-state Dixie tour, provoked the most intense reaction both from supporters and opponents that the Vice President has faced since he began campaigning two weeks ago.

A banner-waving crowd

greeted Agnew with signs saying "Spiro Is My Hero" and "I Love Spiro" and, on the other side, with "Food, Not Bombs" and "Four more Years of Murder."

Hecklers warmed up for the Vice President's appearance by taunting an auditorium stage full of Republican congressional candidates and by periodically shouting "no more years," a cry that was drowned out by the audience answer of "four more years."

One of the Republican congressional nominees, L. A.

(Skip) Bafalis, responded angrily by admonishing the hecklers to "examine your position and stop being the tool of Hanoi."

Agnew was introduced by Paula Hawkins, Republican candidate for the state Public Service Commission, who called the Vice President "the security blanket of the free world."

Virtually all of Agnew's speech was devoted to foreign policy, though he reiterated his opposition to busing to achieve "an arbitrary racial

balance" in a brief airport press conference.

The only change between Agnew's campaigning in the Deep South and elsewhere appeared to be his emphasis on electing Republican candidates other than President Nixon.

Agnew was joined by five Republican candidates for the House in Tampa and then was to attend a reception in Jackson, Miss., to be attended by all five GOP candidates for the House in that state.