

Agnew Calls McGovern *Post 7-13-72* 'No-No Bird' on Progress

NEW YORK, July 12 (AP) —Vice President Agnew said today that Sen. George McGovern, who has clinched the Democratic presidential nomination, was a crusader against progress in opposing U.S. development of a supersonic transport and space shuttle.

He characterized the South Dakotan and two other Democrats, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Edmund S. Muskie of Maine as "no-no birds." He also criticized the New York Times as having a history of editorial opposition to certain flight research.

Kennedy's name has been mentioned prominently among possible running mates for McGovern. Muskie was the last Democratic vice presidential nominee.

"There is nothing new about crusades against progress," Agnew said at a luncheon meeting of the Printing Industries of America, in convention at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

"My own research convinces me that there has never been a significant improvement in all of history that didn't have its Sen. McGovern and Sen. Kennedys and Sen. Muskies to ridicule it and fight it every step of the way.

"If ours were an alien society, these opponents of progress would be the 'no-no' birds. As you know, the 'no-no' bird is a strange little creature that spends most of its time with its head in the sand. And when it does fly, it flies backward because it doesn't want to know where it's going; it just wants to know where it's been."

Among the technological developments in history that Agnew said were opposed by "no-no birds" were: Christopher Columbus' voyage, Robert Fulton's steamboat, Thomas Edison's electric light, air navigation, rocketry, the purchase of Alaska and Edward Jenner's smallpox vaccine.