

HHH Sees 'Calculated Attack' By Administration on Dissent

11/18/69
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Former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey accused the Nixon administration yesterday of mounting a "calculated attack" on the right of dissent and on the news media.

If such attacks are not stopped, he said, they will "open up a Pandora's box of reaction, backlash and repression."

Humphrey was referring primarily to Vice President Agnew's recent controversial speeches criticizing antiwar

demonstrators and television commentators, but he included others in the administration in his charge.

Such comments as Agnew's, said the former vice president, undoubtedly had Mr. Nixon's approval. "This wasn't just a case of the vice president having a lost weekend," he added.

(The White House reiterated that the President did not see Agnew's speech in advance. It was learned that Agnew's speech on the TV networks was largely written by one of President Nixon's writers. Story on Page A5.)

In a free-swinging style reminiscent of last year's political campaign, Humphrey criticized the administration during a press conference following a meeting of the Democratic Policy Council, of which he is chairman.

The Council, which has been formed to prepare Democratic position papers on major issues, joined the skirmishing with a resolution accusing administration leaders of "appealing to fear and creating a climate of retaliation."

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Also moving to the counter-attack was former U.S. peace negotiator W. Averell Harriman, who was himself one of Agnew targets last week. The vice president said Harriman was chief negotiator at the Paris peace talks during a period "in which the U.S. swapped some of the greatest military concessions in the history of warfare for an enemy agreement on the shape of a bargaining table."

Harriman did not reply to that. Instead, he called the criticism of television commentaries an attempt to "intimidate."

"It smacks of totalitarianism and I don't like it," Harriman declared.

Humphrey's charges stressed that he considers Agnew's remarks and others' comments part of a premeditated and

concentrated administration plan.

The administration, he said, is not trying to "bring us together"—a phrase Mr. Nixon favors—but is engaged in a "polarization process" by attributing to war dissenters a lack of patriotism.

"I personally doubt that our country has seen in 20 years such a calculated appeal to our baser interest," he said. "I disagree with those who would create an atmosphere of suppression and call it patriotism."

Humphrey embraced in his counter-attack in addition to Agnew's speeches, the following specific Administration moves and statements:

• The Justice Department's initial refusal to grant a Pennsylvania Avenue demonstra-



Associated Press

W. Averell Harriman and Hubert H. Humphrey appear at a news conference here at which the former Vice Pres-

ident accused the Nixon administration of a "calculated" attempt to suppress dissent in the United States.

tion permit for the massive antiwar march last Saturday and the Department's claim the march would result in violence.

• Federal Communications Commission Chairman Dean Burch's personal calls to television network officials requesting transcripts of commentators' analyses of Mr. Nixon's Nov. 3 speech on Viet-

nam—the analyses that first provoked Agnew.

• A statement Humphrey attributed to the Republican National Committee. He apparently was referring to Republican Chairman Rogers C. B. Morton's comment in a Republican newsletter supporting Agnew.

Humphrey conceded that he had made "sporadic" criticisms

of antiwar protesters who heckled him in the 1968 campaign and had occasionally privately lectured the news media for its coverage.

"But it's another thing to have a calculated, premeditated attack," he said.

At one point, Humphrey appeared to have some reservations about the warm support he gave Mr. Nixon's policy on

the war during a White House meeting on Oct. 10. He said yesterday that he does not want to see U.S. disengagement in Vietnam conditioned either on approval by the South Vietnamese government or on the behavior of North Vietnam. Any disengagement plan, he said, should be formed on the basis of "our own best interests."