

Agnew Calls Campus Study

'Equivocal'

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

SIoux FALLS, S.D., Sept.

29—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew denounced the Scranton commission's report on campus unrest today and rejected its central recommendation that the President bears responsibility for cooling college disorders.

"To lay responsibility for ending student disruptions at the doorstep of this President, in office 20 months, is 'scape-goating' of the most irresponsible sort," Agnew said. The President, he added, "cannot replace the campus cop."

He called the report "contradictory" and "equivocal" and said it should have placed the blame for campus disorders squarely on the disruptive students.

He also rejected the idea that politicians should cease talking about campus violence—an idea which he contended the news media had attributed to the commission's report.

Agnew delivered his angry rebuttal to the report of the Commission on Campus Unrest at a Republican fund-raising luncheon here.

Aides said it represented his personal views and should not be regarded as an opinion of the Nixon administration. Mr. Nixon has not commented directly on the report, which he received from commission chairman William W. Scranton shortly before leaving for Europe.

Later, at the airport in Minot, N.D., Agnew was asked whether he had considered that he was attacking a report agreed to by all nine members of the commission appointed by Mr. Nixon.

"That's not a very large number of people," Agnew said. He asserted that a different group of nine persons might have produced contrary findings.

In some quarters, Agnew himself has been regarded as a target of the commission's complaint that political de-

bates on college disorders might bring more trouble.

Agnew seemed to regard the idea that politicians should not discuss the issue as a creature of the news media.

"It is not those who vigorously condemn student violence and disorder, but those who encourage it or condone it on whom the burden of guilt has been rightly placed by the American people," he said.

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The Vice President used his strongest language in rejecting the commission's contention that the President has the major responsibility for ending campus disruptions. The commission had concluded that "only the President can offer the compassionate, reconciling moral leadership that can bring the country together again."

But Agnew said that, "the primary responsibility for maintaining academic freedom within a campus community does not belong on the steps of the White House . . . it belongs on the steps of the university administration building and at the door of the faculty lounge."

He acknowledged that many would agree with the commission's opposition to violence, and he praised the report's historical analysis of student dissent.

"But," he added, "in the indiscriminate fashion in which it diffuses and dilutes responsibility in the total unfairness of the most widely publicized recommendation, in the thinly veiled rationalizations for student disruption, the report comes out in its overall impression, imprecise, contradictory and equivocal."

"It is sure to be taken as more pablum for the permissivists."

Agnew objected to what he called the neutral posture of the commission.

"The commission condemns, with an even hand, the disruptions by students that have very nearly destroyed many American colleges and the vigorous public denunciation of those disruptions by academicians and public men who were alert to the danger long ago."

"The commission rebukes

those who outspokenly condemn campus disorder and violence, while it exempts from criticism those public officials who have excused, condoned and encouraged disruption for an entire decade."

The Vice President took note of the commission's finding that many students regard American society as repressive and the war in Vietnam as immoral. But the commission, he complained, "could not muster the moral courage to declare the utter falsehood of that charge."

"And the commission lacked the moral vision to condemn that intellectual elite whose attacks on our institutions and society as racist and repressive have led students into believing this nonsense."

"Where it calls for a ceasefire, the commission assumes

a posture of neutrality as between the fireman and the arsonist."

The administration, he also emphasized, will not take campus protests into consideration in determining its priorities for the country. The commission had said that a reordering of national priorities to alleviate social inequities is necessary to restore order.

But Agnew said, "We shall assess the complaints against national policy and claims on our national resources on what we deem to be their merits, not on the tactics of protests used to advance them."

The Scranton commission's plea for large increases in federal aid to colleges, Agnew said, "sounds to me suspiciously like a call for a pay-off."

Agnew spoke here in behalf of Republican Gov. Frank Farris and two congressional candidates, Fred Brady and Dexter Gunderson, but the speech had little connection with South Dakota politics. He strongly attacked Sen. George McGovern (D-S.C.), who is not up for re-election this year.

Agnew claimed that McGovern's voting record is "100 per cent on the radical liberal index" and called on Democratic congressional candidates in South Dakota to repudiate several of McGovern's statements.

Brooke Sees His Campus View Valid

BOSTON, Sept. 29 (UPI)—Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.) says the report by the President's commission on campus unrest confirms what he found when he visited Jackson State College, where two students were killed by police.

The senator said today that the report, released over the weekend, "confirms my findings when I was at Jackson State that excessive force had been used there."

Brooke said he thought "the recommendations contained in the report are something that we must be well aware of and it can be very helpful in bringing peace and calm to the college campus."

He said he was "still hopeful we might have implementation of the Kerner commission report." Brooke was a member of that commission which said the United States was being polarized into two societies, black and white, by racism.