

Agnew Raps McGovern, Post

By Stephen Green

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BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Oct. 19—Undaunted by hecklers yelling "Watergate," Vice President Spiro T. Agnew brought his re-election campaign to this industrial city today, cracking jokes about Sen. George McGovern and launching a new attack on The Washington Post.

A rain-drenched crowd of some 2,500 gathered at a downtown construction site to hear Agnew slash at McGovern, the Democratic presidential candidate, for daring to criticize the condition of American society.

"I thank God I was born an American," said Agnew, and the crowd, except for about 200 hecklers carrying McGovern signs, roared its approval.

Later, Agnew went indoors to praise President Nixon's campaign against drug addiction before an audience of members of local civic clubs.

There, he departed from his prepared speech to criticize The Washington Post for printing in its Oct. 1 Outlook

section an article that suggested that some drugs may be less harmful than alcohol.

Obviously enjoying the enthusiastic support of the majority of the construction site crowd, many of whom wore hard hats, Agnew ignored the hecklers when they chanted "Watergate," and "We want George."

But when the hecklers began shouting "Bullshit, bullshit," Agnew looked at them and said:

"I got your name, but I didn't hear your occupation."

The outdoor crowd, some of whom said they had waited two hours to see Agnew, laughed and applauded when the Vice President told them that on "last Friday the 13th I met a black cat who was a little worried. It seems George McGovern had crossed his path."

Agnew also drew laughter when he said that he agreed with McGovern that the Democratic campaign is "an open book. I understand the author is Clifford Irving."

Speaking before the civic clubs, Agnew described Dr.

Andrew Weil, the author of The Washington Post article about drugs, as "the new Timothy Leary."

Calling for a "hard line" approach to drugs, Agnew criticized the article for saying that heroin and cocaine "are no worse than alcohol."

"I think that when a responsible publication publishes that kind of . . . opinion in its editorial pages . . . without any thousands of physicians . . . who are thoroughly convinced that heroin addiction is . . . one of the greatest destroyers of young people . . . then it's time to reconsider whether the publication can be regarded as responsible," Agnew said.

Weil's article, excerpted from his new book, "The Natural Mind: A New Way of Looking at Drugs and the Higher Consciousness," contends that "the desire to alter consciousness periodically is an innate, normal drive. . . ."

Weil wrote that he does "not make any judgment about the taking of drugs," but noted that "clearly, much drug taking in our country is negative in the sense that it is ultimately destructive to the individual and therefore to society."

Before his attack on The

Washington Post, Agnew said he agreed with McGovern that drug addiction has increased during the four years of the Nixon administration.

But Agnew attributed this to what he called a "thermostatic effect."

"With the permissive attitudes of the 1960s . . . attitudes have been allowed to generate . . . laissez-faire feelings among adults—that they really don't care what's happening among young people . . ."

Agnew said he is confident that "the reversal is beginning."

[United Press International reported that Sen. Lowell P. Weicker (R-Conn.) refused to appear at the outdoor rally because of the presence of indicted labor leader Elwood (Sonny) Metz. Agnew had no reservations about sharing the platform with the accused embezzler.]

[Weicker was present when Agnew arrived at Tweed-New Haven Airport, but said he would not accompany the Vice President to the rally because of the presence of Metz, who sponsored the event.]

[Metz, business agent for the Operating Engineers Union in Connecticut, is under federal indictment for embezzling union funds.]