

The Cold Cruel World and Mr. Agnew

By Judith Martin

Vice President Spiro Agnew warned his daughter's high school graduating class yesterday not to involve itself in local causes when in college.

And 17-year-old Elinor Kimberly Agnew, once the target of a "Free Kim Agnew" campaign when she wanted to support a war protest over the objections of her parents, said that she "very much" agreed with the Vice President when he told her classmates that, for example, "rent boycotts" in communities neighboring their college campuses should be none of their concern.

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"Forgive me if I sound argumentative—it's just the old Agnew coming out," the Vice President said in his talk at the National Cathedral, and suggested that the graduates "select a field" and "not try to oversee the work of all mankind."

Imparting what he termed "part of my philosophy of life," he said that one should "set standards just

ahead of one's goal" and then readjust them to reality. "If I set out to be a surgeon and then found I lacked the necessary skills, I could still be a competent internist or psychiatrist," he said by way of illustration.

"One of the best ways of overcoming the glooms we all get," he added, is by doing something "like going to the dentist or cleaning your closet. The euphoria from

that always gets me out of the dumps."

Success, he said, is "not making \$50,000 a year or a college degree, or being fluent in three languages," but "a state of mind satisfying the psyche." He explained that he was talked out of becoming an accountant, as well as a lawyer, by his first employer, who said it would be a choice between being "a good lawyer or a mediocre lawyer-accountant." The difference "between success and failure is a very small amount of extra effort," he said.

Miss Agnew, who is planning to attend Williams College in the fall, stayed behind to celebrate with her classmates.