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## Trashing the Record

There is little hope for a return to an atmosphere of reason in the relationship between the students and the American people if Vice President Agnew's distortions of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest are a preview of the Nixon Administration's response.

In his Sioux Falls, S.D., fund-raising speech, Mr. Agnew deliberately created the impression of a report that is soft on radicals. His attack undermines the commission's primary effort — to bring about a new era of reconciliation.

Here are some of the discrepancies between what the Vice President said the commission said and what it actually did say:

*Mr. Agnew:* "To lay responsibility for ending student disruption at the doorstep of this President—in office twenty months—is 'scapegoating' of the most irresponsible sort."

*The Commission:* "We urge that the President exercise his reconciling moral leadership as the first step to prevent violence and create understanding. . . . We recommend that the President seek to convince public officials and protesters alike that divisive and insulting rhetoric is dangerous."

*Mr. Agnew:* ". . . The President cannot replace the campus cop."

*The Commission:* "We have deep sympathy for peace officers—local and state police, national guardsmen and campus security officers—who must deal with all types of campus disorder. . . . We therefore urge that peace officers be trained and equipped to deal with campus disorder firmly, justly and humanely."

*Mr. Agnew:* "It [the report] is sure to be taken as more pabulum for the permissivists."

*The Commission:* "Students who bomb and burn are criminals. . . . There can be no more 'trashing,' no more rock throwing, no more arson, no more bombing by protesters. . . . Criminal acts by students must be treated as such wherever they occur and whatever their purpose. . . . Faculty members who engage in or lead disruptive conduct have no place in the university community. . . ."

*Mr. Agnew:* "Nor can one find in that report the justified recognition of the enormous contribution of the working men and women of this country whose taxes have built most of our great colleges and universities and who have rights within those institutions as well."

*The Commission:* "Millions of Americans—generations past and present—have given their vision, their energy, and their patient labor to make us a more just nation and a more humane people. . . . It is a considerable inheritance; we must not squander or destroy it."

What appears to anger the Vice President—or elude his comprehension—is the commission's suggestion that students are deeply concerned about the war and racial injustice and also about the verbal attacks on such legitimate concern by politicians in pursuit of votes. He clearly dislikes the commission's plea for a Presidential admonition that "in the current political campaign and throughout the years ahead. . . . no one play irresponsible politics with the issue of campus unrest."

Mr. Agnew chides the commission for not denouncing as an "utter falsehood" the students' charge that the nation is engaged in "an immoral war." Does Mr. Agnew truly believe that any Presidential commission that seeks to attain credibility with a concerned generation of young Americans must extol the morality of the nation's Indochina policies?

"There is," said the commission, "a deep continuity between all Americans, young and old, a continuity that is being obscured in our growing polarization." It would be an unestimable tragedy if the Administration shared Mr. Agnew's insensitivity to this threat.