

A New Blast

Agnew Attacks 'Cassandras' Of the Senate

Denver

Vice President Spiro Agnew charged yesterday that "the Cassandras of the Senate" are "trying to forge new chains upon the President's freedom of action" while he is trying to use those powers "to protect American lives in Vietnam."

The Vice President, in remarks prepared for a GOP fund-raising dinner, referred to the Cooper-Church amendment to limit President Nixon's power to intervene again in Cambodia.

Assailing those who opposed the President's decision to attack the Cambodian sanctuaries, Agnew said that they "should be apologizing for their irrationalities" instead of "trying to hobble the commander-in-chief" while 400,000 Americans "remain vulnerable in the field."

(In Greek tradition, Cassandra was a prophetess whose prophecies were ordained by Apollo never to be believed. The term "Cassandra" has come to be applied to one who foresees gloomy events.)

SUCCESSFUL

The Vice President called the Cambodia operation "the most successful military operation of the entire war." He said there is "a good deal of egg" on the faces of critics of the operation.

Speaking of the economy, Agnew said that "the prophets of doom, who were so wrong about the results of the President's actions in Cambodia, will prove equally wrong in their predictions of imminent depression and economic disaster."

The President's anti-inflation policies "will pay off" and "we will see an economic upturn before the end of the year," Agnew said.

Turning the news media, Agnew said that "as you read the press and listen to the commentators, you keep hearing this great military success — possibly a victory of watershed proportions as we look to the future — described as a failure by the so-called pundits who are still wedded to their earlier forecasts of disaster.

"They have painted themselves into a corner and are now either intellectually incapable of evaluating the changed situation or disdainfully unwilling to disavow their past predictions of gloom and doom."

He said it is perhaps too

much to expect those persons to admit they were wrong and the President was right.

Agnew said that the Senate's "dilatatory" action on the military sales bill, the vehicle for the Cooper-Church amendment, is holding up money that would "go to two friendly states in the Middle East, Iran and Israel.

The Vice President said he is "growing terribly weary of America's noisy detractors" and urged that the people "vow to emphasize what is right, what is decent, what is good about our great country."

"And let's begin to show some stronger and more vocal support for our President," Agnew urged.

He said he thinks "the President and his lovely family have brought a great sense of dignity to the White House. The moral and religious qualities which come so freely and naturally to them are a basic, but nowadays often overlooked, part of our national heritage and experience."

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