

President Meets Agnew; Scores Assaults on Police

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE JR. NOV 2 1970

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SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Nov. 1 —President Nixon conferred with Vice President Agnew today and later sent the Vice President out to accuse the Democrats of "fear and scare tactics," particularly of economic issues.

Mr. Nixon also issued a statement deploring "the growing problem of assaults on police officers" and directed the Justice Department to make its investigative resources available to state and local police departments "in any cases involving an assault on a police officer."

Appearing before newsmen at the Western White House, Mr. Agnew, who arrived here last evening, said that the "opposition" had engaged in "fear and scare tactics" by implying that the economy had deteriorated under the Nixon Administration and was likely to get worse.

He listed a series of indicators, including growth of the gross national product and declines over the first three-quarters of the year in the rate of inflation, that he said showed that the Democrats were wrong.

The Vice President also contended that in at least four states—California, Utah, Nevada and Kansas—Democratic candidates had raised what he called "maliciously false" charges that certain Federal facilities would be closed or cut back after Election Day. And he portrayed Representative John V. Tunney, Democratic candidate for the Senate in California, as a "man who has lied" by saying that a research center near San Francisco would be closed.

The meeting between the President and Mr. Agnew followed weeks of arduous campaigning by both men, culminating with the stepping up of Mr. Nixon's attacks on violence and "permissiveness" in American society. Mr. Nixon's limousine was the target of eggs and stones thrown by demonstra-

tors after a political rally in San Jose last Thursday night, and he has spoken of little else since.

That incident is still a major topic of discussion among observers here and continues to raise questions. At issue are some details involving the assault itself, the President's behavior and whether the incident will yield political dividends for the Republicans.

There is no evidence that the incident was "arranged" for the President's political benefit, and all observers who were there agree that, for a few seconds as his limousine passed through the crowd on its way out of the parking lot, the President was in a difficult and potentially dangerous position.

Although several eggs were thrown in Mr. Nixon's direction when he left the auditorium and stood near his car, most of the debris was thrown after the President entered the relative safety of his car. Several eggs and stones struck Mr. Nixon's car, the press buses and other vehicles in the motorcade.

The main question about the President's behavior concerns his decision to jump on the hood of his car after the first few eggs were thrown and give his campaign victory salute to the demonstrators.

The official White House explanation is that Mr. Nixon thought he saw friendly faces and jumped on the car to greet them. Except for a few newsmen, security officers and staff members clustered around the car, however, his field of vision was almost totally occupied by approximately 1,000 demonstrators standing in a semi-circle 100 to 150 feet away.

Some of his aides have said privately that they think major motive for his action was a sense of defiance—"a desire," in the words of one aide, "to show them that they couldn't imprison him in that hall and push him around."