

Vice President's Speech Was Scheduled

Romney Applauds Stand; Some in G.O.P. Skeptical

By **SETH S. KING**
Special to The New York Times

DES MOINES, Iowa, Nov. 14 — Vice President Agnew's criticism of the television networks last night was made in a speech that had been scheduled, at the Vice President's suggestion, only two days earlier.

Planners at the Midwest Regional Republican Conference here had not expected an appearance of the Vice President. In fact, no program at all had been scheduled for last night. All that had been planned was the registration of 300 delegates from 14 states in this area and a reception by Gov.

Speech 'Fitted In'

A Republican National Committeeman, McDill Boyd of Phillipsburg, Kan., chairman of the conference, said he received a call Tuesday from the Vice President's office, suggesting that Mr. Agnew be a speaker Thursday night.

"I said 'great' and we set about fitting him in," Mr. Boyd explained today.

It was assumed by Midwest Republican leaders that the Vice President wanted to use this forum to counter the second Vietnam war moratorium that began last night in Washington. But none of them expected an attack on network commentators who had criticized the President's Vietnam speech Monday.

Mr. Boyd hailed the Vice President during a conference session today as the "leading exponent of the speak-out generation."

Mrs. J. Lloyd O'Donnell, president of the National Federation of Women's Republican Clubs, said the networks "rightly deserved his criticism."

"He is willing to tell it like it is," she declared.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney, a luncheon speaker, praised Mr. Agnew, calling him the "champion of the old culture that values historic and democratic principles."

"The new culture, which has only contempt for anything from the past, is dominating the net-

works from Washington and New York," said Mr. Romney. "As the Vice President suggests, we can all do something about this by lending our support to those principles and views that will strengthen this nation."

Some Don't Agree

But a Minnesota G.O.P. official, who asked not to be identified, was more skeptical.

"Certainly the networks can be criticized," he said. "But we don't want to create the impression that the Republican party is trying to stifle disagreement with Nixon. That wouldn't do us any good at home."

A Republican leader from Missouri, who also requested anonymity, said sadly, "You don't throw bricks at the man who owns the brickyard."

Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois, who served as chairman of a party workshop this afternoon, later smiled when asked about the Vice President's speech.

"Really, no, we have the best, the freest, and the most uninhibited press in the world, and I don't believe anyone is going to shackle it by criticism," he said.

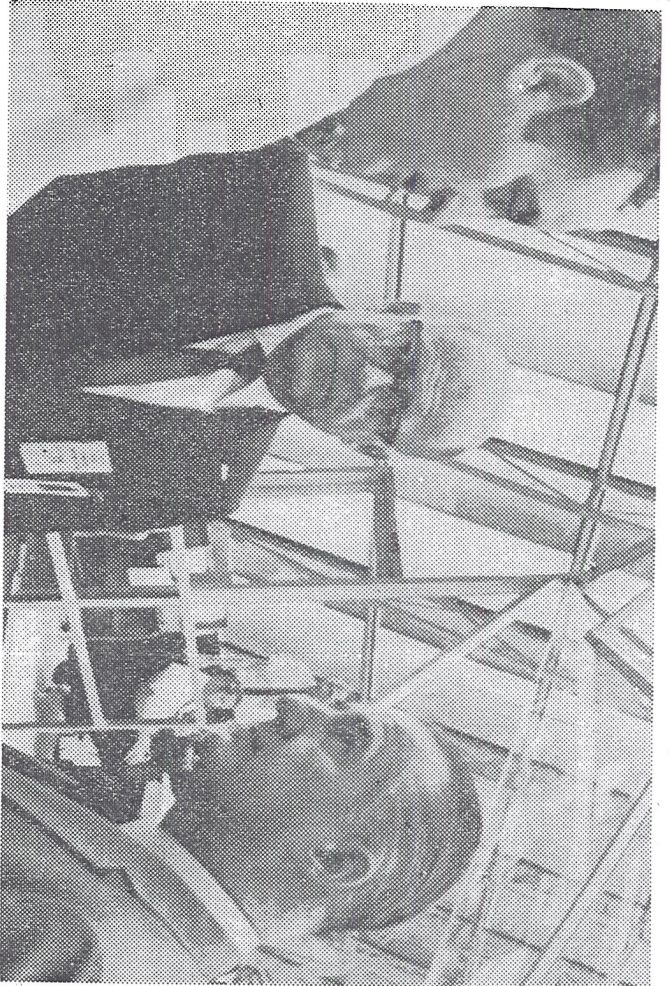
"I'm not as concerned about the manipulation by the fourth estate as I am about the government's manipulation of the news," he added.

Senator Percy said the Vice President liked to "provoke discussion" by his statements.

The three network affiliated television states in Des Moines reported today that they had been receiving calls all day from listeners who said they were following Mr. Agnew's suggestion that they register their criticism of news presentations.

The Des Moines Register, in an editorial prepared for Saturday's paper, said that neither the networks nor the newspapers should be oversensitive about criticism. But it asks whether the Vice President was not confusing the threat of undue network power with legitimate disagreement with the President.

INTERESTED GUEST: Vice President Agnew meeting with Rocco A. Petrone, left, Apollo program director, and Albert F. Siepert, the deputy director of the Kennedy Space Center.



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at His Request Only Two Days Earlier