

AGNEW EXPLAINS: 'I'D HAD ENOUGH'

He Writes in Life About Why
He Decided to Speak Out

By WILLIAM BORDERS

Vice President Agnew decided to speak out against antiwar demonstrators, he says, not at the prompting of the President but because, "like the great, silent majority, I had had enough."

"I had endured the didactic inadequacies of the garrulous in silence, hoping for the best but witnessing the worst for many months. And because I am an elected official, I felt I owed it to those I serve to speak the truth," he said in an article published yesterday in Life magazine.

Besides denying that he had been speaking for President Nixon in his controversial speech in New Orleans last Oct. 19, Mr. Agnew took another look in the magazine article at "the frightening forces set in motion" by demonstrators.

"Perpetual street and campus demonstrating can erode the fabric of American democracy," the Vice President said in the two-page article, which he wrote early last week at the invitation of the magazine.

'Brutally Counterproductive'

In the widely quoted New Orleans address, while discussing antiwar protests, he said:

"A spirit of national masochism prevails, encouraged by an effete corps of impudent snobs who characterize themselves as intellectuals."

Elaborating in Life, Mr. Agnew said:

"The Vietnam Moratorium is not only negative in content but brutally counterproductive."

"It encourages the North Vietnamese Government to escalate the fighting and fortifies their recalcitrance at the bargaining table in Paris. It undermines the policies of the President of the United States."

'Emotion-Provoking Tactics'

The Vice President said that peaceful picketing and demonstrations "which interfere with no law nor any individual's rights are clearly protected by the Constitution."

"But this does not necessarily mean that such emotion-provoking tactics are justified to marshal opinion for every dispute," he continued.

Since making the speech on the protests, Mr. Agnew has stirred controversy again by two other speeches: first criticizing television news presentation and then the print news media.

Newsweek magazine, reporting on those more recent speeches in the issue that comes out this week, quotes an unnamed aide as having said that the assault on television and the press was "a campaign, and carefully organized."

Newsweek also quotes Mr. Agnew, after having denied any attempt to intimidate the news media, as countering in an interview: "The Vice President has a right to dissent, too. If anybody is intimidated, it should be me. I don't have the resources the networks have."

Mr. Agnew's office said yesterday that he had written the Life essay at the same time he was preparing the speech, delivered Thursday, in which he criticized The New York Times and The Washington Post.

But the article was devoted largely to the antiwar protesters, not to the news media.

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