

Agnew Hits 'Watergate Syndrome'

Chicago

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, avoiding direct references to his own personal crisis resulting from a corruption probe in Maryland, praised President Nixon last night as "a man who has faced some of the most unbelievable pressures that have ever confronted one in the White House."

The vice president's remarks concerning Mr. Nixon came at the end of a prepared speech to a Republican fund-raising dinner in which he declared that Mr. Nixon's programs are measured "in one way only — results."

He said the Democrats' social change programs of the 1960s had proved to be failures.

'SYNDROME'

Agnew said that Mr. Nixon wants to get his administration moving again toward its goals, "but to do so he must overcome the inertia caused by the current morbid fascination with America's warts, commonly known as the Watergate syndrome."

"To do this, he needs your help and the help of every American who is concerned that the major issues of today — the economy, the energy problem, health, foreign policy and others — are not to be left dangling while Pat Buchanan gives a TV lecture on 'dirty tricks,' however instructive and fascinating it may be."

There had been anticipation that Agnew might use the \$125-a-plate dinner — the second partisan audience he has addressed in six days — to renew attacks on his accusers in the federal investigation of alleged political kickbacks in Maryland. In a Los Angeles speech last week, Agnew departed from his text to denounce his ac-

cusers and blame Justice Department officials for news leaks in the case.

The vice president told his

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audience at the outset of yesterday's speech that he planned to stick close to his prepared script.

Addressing the newsmen, he said: "This is not going to be an X-rated political show. This is going to be just PG, fellows. So if you have to go somewhere, go ahead."

About 1000 persons attended the dinner, sponsored by the Illinois United Republican Fund.

Agnew said there was "no tougher job in the world" than being President of the United States.

"Thank God we have a man who has faced some of the most unbelievable pressures that have ever confronted one in the White House and has faced them and handled them, and has stood before the American people, resisting the impulse

to yield to the pressure of the moment," Agnew said.

Agnew told the GOP dinner that the "essential lesson" of the 1950s was that the measure of success of government programs "should not be — and cannot be — either sex appeal or the sound of loud cheering."

He said the war on poverty spent billions of dollars on a variety of programs designed to "legislate every American, regardless of talent, initiative or ability, into an egalitarian Utopia."

"The tragedy was that little of the money filtered down to benefit the poor . . ." he said.

BENEFICIARIES

"At the conclusion of the decade of the Great Society and its programs, the poor were still poor and the only real beneficiaries of those well-intentioned utopian programs were the bureaucrats

and the politicians who built constituencies among some of the disadvantaged, by advising them that political action was more important than hard work as a way to escape poverty."

Agnew said the Nixon administration will avoid governmental interference that stifles private initiative and will not measure its programs' success by the amount of publicity they receive.

"Our standard will be how well we assist local officials and citizens to come together, determine their own needs and priorities, and move toward solutions of the local programs they understand better than any official in Washington," he said.

Associated Press

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