

Agnew Hails Nixon's Domestic Policy

By SETH S. KING

CHICAGO, Oct. 4—Vice President Agnew reverted to his old role as a defender of President Nixon's domestic policies tonight as he appeared as the guest of honor at an Illinois Republican fund-raising dinner.

In the text of the speech he prepared for delivery, Mr. Agnew made no reference to the investigation now being conducted by President Nixon's Attorney General that could lead to Agnew's indictment and impeachment.

Instead of the bitter denunciation of Justice Department prosecutors he made Saturday, the Vice President appealed for the nation's support for President Nixon in his efforts to overcome "the inertia" that Mr. Agnew said had been caused by the "morbid fascination" over Watergate.

Aides had indicated earlier that the beleaguered Vice President, in his first appearance since his slashing attack on the investigation last Saturday, would not be making a routine exhortation to the United Republican Fund dinner to night.

But in the prepared text of his relatively bland speech, the Vice President again took up his familiar defense of Mr. Nixon's domestic policies.

'Defend Individual'

"This Administration will continue to tread with extreme caution, for we believe it is our primary duty to preserve and protect this great system of democratic government," he declared. "We will continue to defend the right of the free individual in our free society to chart his own course and rise just as high as he is able."

Mr. Agnew implied that he still considered himself a part of the Nixon Administration and promised his and the President's efforts to "restore clear-

headed, pragmatic policy-making in Washington."

"We pledge to continue to eschew apocalyptic rhetoric, to shun the politics of image and charisma, and to strive to shape realistic programs that do work," he said. "We believe the time for playing on the emotions of our citizens is past."

1,000 Hear Speech

The Vice President spoke to more than 1,000 Illinois Republicans who paid \$125 apiece to sit in the grand ballroom of the Conrad Hilton Hotel.

Earlier this afternoon, the Vice President flew into this gloomy, fog-shrouded city in his Air Force jet while a Federal grand jury was meeting in Baltimore. The grand jury is hearing testimony involving alleged kickbacks to Mr. Agnew when he was Baltimore County executive and later while he was Governor of Maryland.

In a speech Saturday to the National Federation of Republican Women in Los Angeles, the Vice President again declared that he was innocent of these charges. He publicly accused Justice Department lawyers of selecting him as "the big trophy" in hopes of convicting him and recouping for their "ineptness" in the Watergate investigation.

Last week, Mr. Agnew's lawyers went into Federal court in an attempt to block an indictment on the ground that the Constitution prohibits criminal proceedings against a sitting Vice President.

United States District Judge Walter E. Hoffman ordered the grand jury proceedings to continue while he considered the motion by Mr. Agnew's lawyers. But he also gave the lawyers the right to conduct an investigation into leaks to newsmen that Mr. Agnew has

charged were a deliberate attempt to destroy him.

Mr. Agnew has declared that he would not resign even if he were indicted Yesterday President Nixon told a news conference that this stand was "altogether proper."

But Mr. Nixon also said that the charges against Mr. Agnew gathered for presentation to the grand jury were "serious and not frivolous."

Months ago, before Mr. Agnew's troubles became known, he was invited to be the principal speaker at tonight's meeting. His appearance has suddenly heightened interest in an otherwise routine affair, and, according to a party spokesman, has produced a capacity crowd for the \$125-a-plate fund-raiser.

There is a strong conservative faction in the Illinois Republican party that has, at least until now, been enthusiastic about Mr. Agnew, both as a Vice President and as a Presidential candidate in 1976.

Had the Vice President's current difficulties not put his candidacy in question, he would have been facing a challenge from Senator Charles H. Percy, the only prominent statewide office holder the Illinois Republicans still have, who is preparing to seek the Republican Presidential nomination.

In the last four years the G.O.P. has fared badly in Illinois. It carried the state for President Nixon last year, and Senator Percy, despite the coolness many of the conservatives feel toward him, won overwhelmingly in 1972.

But the Republicans lost the governorship last year and, two years before that, lost most of the important county offices in Chicago's Cook County.

The party is still trying to find somebody willing to run next year against Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d for the United States Senate.