

Agnew Hits Out Again

Associated Press

Boise, Idaho

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said last night that a group usually composed of "choleric young intellectuals and tired, embittered elders" are mounting shrill attacks against President Nixon's Cambodia policy.

In a speech to a state Republican dinner in Boise, Agnew also accused J. William Fulbright, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee of uttering "the baldest and most reactionary plea for isolationism" heard in the Senate chamber since before World War II.

While most of the text was

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Agnew's Latest Blast

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devoted to a soberly phrased defense of Mr. Nixon's decision to send American troops into Cambodia, Agnew managed to toss in a few characteristic barbs just a day after White House sources had indicated the tone of his rhetoric might be more muted in future.

Agnew told his Boise audience that at every period of great challenge in American history, "debate has always included a cadre of Jeremiahs; normally a gloomy coalition of choleric young intellectuals and tired, embittered elders."

ATTACKS

The Jeremiahs in recent weeks, he said, "have redoubled their efforts and heightened their shrill attacks against Vietnamization, against our policies in Laos, and now against Cambodia."

He spoke of "what could only appear as a conscious attempt to rekindle the debilitating fires of riot and unrest that had been banked by the continuing commitment of President Nixon to end the war."

Quoting Adlai E. Stevenson as saying emotion is no substitute for intelligence, Agnew went on:

"Let us not therefore allow the emotional attacks or the rigid mythology of liberal ideologues drown out objective discussion and analysis of the events of recent weeks in the Vietnam war."

Agnew stated that the American-South Vietnamese assaults on Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia "are proceeding with considerably greater success than anticipated." He said casualties have been light and troops have uncovered significant supply dumps, including some containing "supplies donated by American peace groups."

TROOPS

Agnew said the allied troops are achieving their objective of destroying enemy communication facilities and supply depots.

"This operation, if successful, will buy at least eight months during which these base areas cannot support military operations in South Vietnam. And even this assumes that we would not attack the base areas once again. It will now be far harder for the enemy to sustain major operations. This should mean fewer allied casualties, afford the opportunity to consolidate pacification gains, improve ARVN's readiness, and thus help us to hold to our withdrawal schedule," he said.

Also, said the vice president, "from now on, the Communists must worry about the security of these base areas, forcing a basic change in their calculations concerning supply routes and disposition of their forces."

SPEECH

Without naming Fulbright, he quoted a recent floor speech by the Foreign Relations Committee chairman in which the Senator said, "The central fact about Indochina including Vietnam is that it doesn't matter much who rules in those small and backward lands." Agnew added:

"There on the floor of the Senate stood the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations denouncing the media for their role in making the 'benighted masses of bumpkins' aware of the importance to their lives of our Nation's foreign policy. That was the baldest and most reactionary plea for isolationism heard in that chamber since the heyday of the 'America Firsters'!"

Agnew asserted that "this is indeed the moment for this Nation to stand firm." He expressed certainty that "our ability to achieve a just peace depends above all upon the character of the American people, and that character must find expression in a firm spirit."