

S.F. EXAMINER

Aide Hits 'Vicious Tactics' Raps Policy On Dissent

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — The President's own youth adviser quit today, charging that President Nixon and his advisers have sanctioned "the most vicious tactics" against political dissenters.

Hours earlier, a letter to the President from Interior Secretary Walter Hickel suggesting the administration has shown a lack of concern for young people had been made public and then Nixon appointee Anthony J. Moffett resigned as director of the Office of Students and Youth.

Hickel, who said he had composed the letter for Nixon's eyes only, wrote that administration policies appear "to lack concern for the attitude of a great mass of Americans — our young people."

Agnew Hit

He politely suggested that Vice President Agnew lower his voice on the subject of student dissent.

"A continued attack on the young — not in their attitudes so much as their motives — can serve little purpose other than further to cement those attitudes to a solidity impossible to penetrate with reason," Hickel wrote.

Moffett, whose rumored resignation became official today with a strongly worded statement on the administration's attitudes toward youth, was less diplomatic.

Nixon, Moffett said in a statement, "has shown that he does not understand young people, nor does he wish to communicate with them."

Nixon 'Bums'

He decried the President's characterization of rioting students as "bums" and his statement that the death of four Kent State University students by National Guard

—From Page 1

bullets should "remind us once again that when dissent turns to violence it invites tragedy."

"A tone has been set by this administration that has tended to increase polarization," Moffett said. "The inflammatory rhetoric in the air by administration officials did not help the situation there (Kent State)."

Moffett continued:

"As recently as March 31, 1970, the President, in a memorandum for heads of executive departments and agencies stated:

"How well we communicate with youth and seek the advantage of their abilities will influence our effectiveness in meeting our responsibilities."

"Through his irresponsible statements of the past week — the labeling of student protesters as 'bums,' the attempt to blame the Kent State tragedy on violent dissent — the President has exposed the above statement as mere rhetoric.

"He has demonstrated that he does not understand young people, and that he does not wish to communicate with them.

"And students across the

Nixon's Old College Protests

WHITTIER — AP) — Student body president Steve Kramer of Whittier College, a Quaker-founded school from which President Nixon was graduated in 1934, says of the chief executive:

"He represents the system; he's the head of the system that's killing young men in Vietnam, Cambodia and now Kent State University."

Kramer spoke yesterday as about 500 Whittier College students and faculty members participated in all-day protest rallies. Officials said about 60 percent of the 2140 students stayed away from classes.

country are saying 'enough, enough' to his short-sighted policies. I support their non-violent protest and can no longer continue to serve in an administration which seeks to discredit it."

At a news conference today, Moffett said his decision to resign was "based on what I fear is a very dangerous attitude in our country."

"The recent remarks by the President concerning student demonstrators were most instrumental in my decision," Moffett said.

"For they confirmed what thousands of students have believed or suspected for some time: Namely, that the President and his most trusted advisers do not view themselves as leaders of all people; they

Moffett had high praise for HEW Secretary Robert H. Finch and U.S. Commissioner of Education James E. Allen, his immediate boss.

Moffett said he had talked to Finch this morning and sensed "as I sensed before that he is very, very troubled, indeed, about what he is going to do."

There are 11 other members of the student liaison staff directed by Moffett. There were reports others also planned to quit but Moffett said he was the only one resigning at this time.

Hickel pleaded with Nixon to solicit the views of individual cabinet members on the

—Turn to Page 3, Col. 1

current campus crisis and suggested consultations with college officials.

U.S. History

Hickel, the father of six children, compared today's events with the American Revolution and the Depression, and added:

"Today our young people, or at least a vast segment of them, believe they have no opportunity to communicate with government, regardless of administration, other than through violent confrontation. But I am convinced we — and they — have the capacity, if we will have the willingness, to learn from history."

During the revolution, he

continued, the protests of Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson "fell on deaf ears, and finally led to war."

In the Depression "our youth lost their ability to communicate with the Republican party. What is happening today is not unrelated to what happened in the '30s. Now being unable to communicate with either party, they are apparently heading down the road to anarchy.

"And regardless of how I, or any American, might feel individually, we have an obligation as leaders to communicate with our youth and listen to their ideas and problems."

At the White House today,

press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler was asked whether Nixon had read Hickel's letter.

"Indeed he has," was the reply.

Asked whether Nixon had requested that Agnew "lower his voice," Ziegler said he had not talked to the President about it and "I am just not in a position to take that question."

Moffett was named head of the office of Students and Youth in the Office of Education when the post was created last fall. His job was to lobby for youth causes and to provide better communication with students in high school and college.

His office did not make policy but was supposed to help student groups find government money for projects.

Moffett, a native of Suffield, Conn., said he made his decision to quit after the President's move into Cambodia, and after Nixon's statement calling student protesters "bums."

"We're in a very tough position now in this country and the polarization, if it continues, is going to become even more dangerous than any of us have imagined," he said.

"What we need is some courage on the part of everyone to begin to solve these

problems. I am somewhat skeptical about the leadership of this administration giving us that courage..."

Commenting on Hickel's letter and Moffett's statement, David Hawk, a former coordinator of the Vietnam Moratorium Committee who is now active in the National Student Association's strike, said:

"The President doesn't listen to anyone."

Hickel, Hawk said, "is absolutely right that the President's actions in Vietnam and Cambodia and his statements and those of the vice president are alienating students. They're alienating parents, too."