

11 PROFESSORS BID AGNEW CURB TONE

Speeches Drive Moderates
'Into Arms of Extremists,'
They Assert at Meeting

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WASHINGTON, June 4 —

Eleven University of Minnesota professors told Vice President Agnew today that his public rhetoric was "driving moderates into the arms of extremists."

After a two-hour conversation with Mr. Agnew, the professors were hopeful that he would tone down his speeches.

Walter W. Heller, a professor of economics, who was an adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, said at a news conference that Mr. Agnew conceded several times during the frank discussion that his visitors had some valid arguments.

At one point, said Mr. Heller, the Vice President noted that he had once taught night law school classes in Baltimore and remarked:

"Were I in your position, you know, I might well be a member of your group."

By the professors' account, Mr. Agnew also gained some favor with them. Paul E.

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Meehl, professor of clinical psychology, said his suspicion that Mr. Agnew was opposed to all dissent had proved to be unfounded.

"I intend to assure my hippie daughter of that when I get back to the Twin Cities," he added.

An aide to Mr. Agnew later quoted the Vice President as having said that he thought the encounter with the professors "was certainly of value to me."

The aide did not discuss any of the specific points raised in the meeting but said that Mr. Agnew had found the session to be "very interesting, informative and productive."

The professors handed Mr. Agnew a letter signed by all 13 of the university's Regents' Professors, who are the distinguished members of the faculty. The letter, addressed to President Nixon, expressed "grave concern" that large numbers of sober young Americans were being radicalized by the war in Indochina and the domestic frictions associated with it.

Coincidentally, President Nixon was said to be preparing to meet tomorrow with eight junior members of the White House staff who have been traveling across the country to test the depth of alienation on the campuses.

'Widespread Distrust'

The young staff members, who were reported to have been stunned by the breadth of antiwar and anti-Administration sentiment they encountered, were said to be hopeful that Mr. Nixon would be more receptive to their findings than several of his top echelon aides.

One staff member protested privately that H. R. Haldeman, assistant to the President, and Bryce N. Harlow, counselor to the President, "still feel there is political mileage in attacking student radicals."

The Minnesota professors said in their letter to Mr. Nixon that they had found "among our bright hard-working, ambitious, well-read students a widespread distrust of their Government, a growing despair about the political process, a mixture of fear and resentment toward America's leadership."

They said this was the growing attitude among students who "are not the minority that hurls bottles and obscenities at police officers and public figures."

Mr. Heller said the major complaint voiced to the Vice President was that his rhetoric

"is driving moderates into the arms of the extremists" by creating sympathy for those who are the targets of Mr. Agnew's oratorical attacks.

The professors urged Mr. Agnew to be more even-handed in his approach and to criticize violence among, for example, New York construction workers at the same time as he protests violence among the radical young.

They suggested that the Vice

President tone down his language. Mr. Heller read to the Vice President some of the words he used in a May 22 speech on the news media — "fulminated," "hysterical," "sick," and "strident" — and noted that columnists later disagreed with Mr. Agnew's statement that his rhetoric was not "wild" or "hot."

According to Mr. Heller, the Vice President said, "Maybe they've got a point."