

AGNEW CRITICAL OF 2 DEMOCRATS

Scores 'Deplorable Conduct'
of O'Brien and O'Donnell

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5—Vice President Agnew accused two prominent Democrats today of "demeaning and deplorable" conduct in their recent appraisals of the Vietnam war policies during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

The Vice President said that Kenneth P. O'Donnell, a key White House aide under both former Presidents, and Lawrence F. O'Brien, former Postmaster General and current Democratic National Chairman, had "set new lows for political shabbiness."

Mr. Agnew made the charge in a statement released this afternoon by his office. His aides would not elaborate on the statement or explain why it had been issued.

But it appeared that Mr. Agnew had been offended by what he described as the "re-writing of history" by the two Democrats.

In the current issue of Life magazine, Mr. O'Donnell wrote that President Kennedy was determined to withdraw all United States troops from Vietnam by the end of 1965, although he planned to withhold announcement of the action until after the 1964 election.

Mr. O'Brien apologized in a speech here last week for having supported the escalation of the Vietnam effort in the past and said that any government that perpetuated the United States involvement in Indochina could not hope to win the allegiance of America's young people.

The Vice President said that he could not believe what Mr. O'Donnell had written and Mr. O'Brien had said, "even though I find it easy to comprehend the desire of the liberal wing of the national Democratic party to fly the white flag of peace-at-any-price advocacy instead of the dirty gray banner of vacillation."

He said it was in "bad taste to write of a dead President that he would risk American lives for two years beyond deciding to withdraw from Vietnam for the political expediency of re-election" and difficult to believe.

Mr. Agnew noted that Mr. O'Donnell was a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in Massachusetts and said:

"It is true that one of these authors is struggling for elec-

O'BRIEN SEES SMEAR IN AGNEW CRITICISM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7 (AP) — Lawrence F. O'Brien, the Democratic national chairman, has accused Vice President Agnew of making an "attack on me designed purposely as a smear filled with characteristic innuendo and insinuation."

"It brings no credit to the office of Vice President," Mr. O'Brien added yesterday in a telegram referring to an Agnew statement Wednesday assailing Mr. O'Brien and Kenneth P. O'Donnell for what the Vice President termed "gratuitous harassment and debunking of former Presidents."

Mr. O'Donnell, a White House aide during the Kennedy Administration, said in a recently published magazine article that President Kennedy planned to withdraw all United States

troops from Vietnam after the 1964 election.

Mr. O'Brien said recently that he supported the Vietnam war in the nineteen sixties but believes now it is a mistake.

Vice President Agnew had decried what he termed "the 'now it can be told' rewriting of history" and said the contributions by Mr. O'Brien and Mr. O'Donnell "set new lows for political shabbiness."

...tive office and the other is trying to unite a party on a program diametrically opposed to that it carried out in office. Cheap shots and expediency are thus not unexpected. But such betrayal of personal trust is demeaning and deplorable."

In Boston, Mr. O'Donnell said that he was "delighted what I

wrote may have pricked their conscience" in the White House.

He said it would seem the Vice President "is the expert on cheap shots" and that his Life Magazine account represented "history the way it was."

Mr. O'Brien could not be reached for comment.