

Economy Defended

Nixon's Final Bid -- Law and Order

Examiner Washington Bureau

SAN CLEMENTE — President Nixon is making a final law-and-order bid for Republican votes this election eve — but is showing bristling concern over Democratic charges and whispers about the economy.

"Absolutely unconscionable," Nixon said of charges the administration was holding off until after the election plans to close or cut various installations in states featuring close Senate contests.

Nixon put a formal end to history's most ambitious presidential barnstorming campaign in an off-year election yesterday by bringing Vice President Spiro Agnew to the Western White House to compare political findings and to shake hands.

Another Job

But he gave Agnew one more troubleshooting assignment.

After meeting with the President, Agnew faced newsmen on the lawn and charged Democrats with employing "the big lie."

He and the President, Agnew said, talked "to a great extent about some of the tactics that are being used by the Democratic candidates around the country — tactics that we think are deplorable, tactics I refer to as the kind of fear or scare tactics that they constantly accuse me of using."

Other Direction

He said Democrats were "continuing to accentuate a fear" that the country is heading for a "recession or a depression or something worse."

Agnew contended that the economic indicators, despite the increased unemployment and rising prices, "are all in the opposite direction" from a recession.

He said he and Nixon found

that "all over the country these tactics of scare about the economy are being used."

"We protest it mightily to the people of this country. This is nothing more than the tactic of the big lie and American people should know about it," said the Vice President.

Turning to the California battle, Agnew reminded newsmen that John Tunney, who some polls find leading Republican Sen. George Murphy, has claimed there would be layoffs at the Ames Research Center in the state.

'Malicious'

"I want to brand those statements as absolutely false and maliciously so," said Agnew.

Nixon, meanwhile, continued to drum the law-and-order issue.

Republicans bought time on all the major networks tonight to feature Nixon's Phoenix speech denouncing rock-throwing radicals and "creeping permissiveness."