

Agnew Finds Nixon Foes Unremitting

By ROY REED

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JACKSON, Miss., May 18— Vice President Agnew said here today that President Nixon had been "confronted every step of the way by an opposition that views his defeat and the defeat of his policies as its prime order of national business, second to none."

Likening the tribulations of Mr. Nixon to those of Abraham Lincoln, he said that the Administration would not be intimidated by its critics.

"My fellow Americans, your President needs your help to restore confidence in our nation as the bulwark of freedom in a troubled world," he said in a speech he had prepared for delivery at a \$100-a-plate Republican fund-raising dinner here.

He said he had come to Jackson not just for the Republican party but also for Mr. Nixon, "who more than ever needs the aid and support of his countrymen in carrying out the mandate he was given 30 months ago."

Mr. Agnew said that the Administration would prevail not by emotional appeals and simplistic slogans "but by appealing to and performing on behalf of the thoughtful majority of Americans who seek solutions to our problems based on reason."

A Preview of 1972

Observers speculated that the Vice President, who has added "effete snobs" and other colorful terms to the political language, might be testing "the thoughtful majority" as a possible complement to or substitute for "the silent majority."

In both tone and content, the speech was possibly a forerunner of what can be expected of Mr. Agnew next year in the Presidential election campaign.

This was his second visit to Mississippi for a Republican party function in a year and a half. He is well regarded in Mississippi, particularly among the new urban middle class upon which the Republicans are trying to build a party in this once-agricultural state.

He criticized Senators Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, for accusing him of either saying or intimating that the Administration's antiwar opponents were "unpatriotic or worse."

"The truth of the matter is that on many occasions I have said just the opposite of what Senator Javits 'intimates' and Senator Fulbright charges," Mr. Agnew declared. "I have said that the doves of the Senate and House are patriotic and well-motivated. However, good motivations and intentions do not keep these Congressional doves from being absolutely wrong in the policies which they urge upon the nation."

Recalls Chamberlain

"Who doubts, for example," he went on, "that in the late nineteen-thirties Neville Chamberlain was every bit as patriotic and concerned with the future of his country as was Winston Churchill? No one questions Chamberlain's love of country or his good intentions. But in his judgment of events—of what was right for England and right for the cause of lasting peace in the world—Chamberlain was wrong." His speech pursued a favor-

ite theme, denunciation of the press, and coined the word "mediamorphosis" to describe what the Vice President sees as the efforts of the press and broadcast media to brighten the image of youthful protesters.

Referring to Tom Wicker, columnist for The New York Times, and other writers he did not name, Mr. Agnew said, "We have been instructed that when 10,000 persons rage through the streets and neighborhoods of our nation's capital, defacing buildings with their favorite obscenity or Maoist slogan of the moment, disabling automobiles, burning public park benches, strewing garbage, and otherwise depriving other citizens of their right of unhindered movement in a free community, the perpetrators of such actions are engaging in nonviolent dissent."

"From the vantage point of Jackson, these people may look like hoodlums and lawbreakers, to be sure," he added. "But given the editorial insight of The Times, The [Washington] Post and some national magazines, they undergo a metamorphosis—or should I say 'mediamorphosis.' And they emerge simply as 'kids' who are 'trying to tell us something, if we would only listen.'"

Cronkite Sees 'Conspiracy'

Walter Cronkite, accepting a Broadcaster of the Year Award here yesterday, attacked the Nixon Administration for what he called an "antipress policy" and a "grand conspiracy to destroy the credibility of the press."

In a speech before the International Radio and Television Society at the Waldorf-Astoria, Mr. Cronkite accused Mr. Agnew and the Republican National Chairman, Senator Robert J. Dole, of "attempts at intimidation through their reminders that broadcasting is a licensed industry."

"Nor is there any way that President Nixon can escape responsibility for this campaign," Mr. Cronkite said. "He is the ultimate leader. He sets the tone and the attitude of his Administration. By internal edict and public posture, he could reverse the anti-press policy of his Administration if that were his desire."

"As long as the attacks, overt and subtle, continue," Mr. Cronkite said, "we must even at the risk of appearing to be self-serving, rise to defend ourselves against the charges by which the enemies of freedom seek to influence a divided and confused population."