

Media Criticized for 'Outrageous' StoriesAgnew Says Thieu Is Not a 'Callous Dictator'**Los Angeles**

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew has heaped words of praise on South Vietnam's President Thieu and scorned those who see him as "a callous dictator."

The Vice President told the Lincoln Club of Los Angeles that "believe me, gentlemen, President Thieu isn't anything like what you read about in the newspapers."

Agnew delivered the

speech Monday night, but the text of his remarks was not made available until yesterday.

Agnew, who returned recently from a trip to Southeast Asia, said the South Vietnamese leader is a distinguished man, he is a decent man, he is man of tremendous patriotism for his country, he is a scholar."

The Vice President noted that Thieu is scheduled to meet with President Nixon

at San Clemente soon.

"I hope you'll have a chance to find out how absolutely outrageous the stories that have been passed about him as a callous dictator really are," Agnew told the black-tie audience of business and professional men.

United States District Judge Stanley M. Barnes, club president, said it was the club's decision not to invite newsmen to cover the speech and a spokesman in

Washington for Agnew said it was not the Vice President's decision.

Agnew, vacationing this week at the home of Frank Sinatra in the Palm Springs area, said he watched television coverage of the return of war prisoners and commented that "those are the men who are the heroes of the war, not those who fled from their duty.

"We must be particularly hard and tough in our treat-

ment of deserters."

Agnew scoffed at what he termed a publicity campaign to persuade President Nixon to grant amnesty to war protesters and evaders.

"It almost makes one ill to hear about how deserters say they fled from an immoral war," he said.

The Vice President attacked a New York Times editorial which cited President Lincoln's humanitarianism toward Civil War

deserters. He said it was wrong to imply that Lincoln was more humane in his approach than Mr. Nixon.

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