

AGNEW SALUTES WEST POINT CLASS

Says Cadets Face 'Lonely'
War While 'Charlatans of
Peace' Desecrate Flag

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WEST POINT, N. Y., June 3 — Vice President Agnew praised the leadership qualities of graduates of the United States Military Academy today while attacking what he termed "criminal misfits" and "charlatans of peace" who cause national confusion.

Speaking at the 171st commencement exercises at West Point, Mr. Agnew told 749 graduating cadets that they were entering the Army at a time "when some glamorize the criminal misfits of society while our best men die in Asian rice paddies to preserve the freedoms those misfits abuse."

The Vice President spoke in measured, reserved tones to the Corps of Cadets and the 15,000 relatives and friends gathered in Michie Stadium. He was given a standing ovation at the outset and conclusion of his address.

A Challenge Outlined

The major part of the Vice President's speech was given over to a traditional challenge to a graduating class. Only at the start did he refer to some of the dissenters he has attacked on other occasions.

"These are years of great national confusion, much of it contrived confusion brought about by a clever, sustained assault on America's system and institutions," he said. "This is a time when some deride application, achievement and success as callous, corrupt and irrelevant.

"This is a time when the charlatans of peace and freedom eulogize foreign dictators while desecrating the flag that

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keeps them free."

Mr. Agnew continued by saying that it is a difficult time, especially for those who serve their nation by defending it. "To these recurring challenges generations of West Pointers have brought courage, strength, resolve and dedication as strong and dependable as the rock foundations of these Highlands," he said.

'Lonely and Difficult War'

After praising the West Point educational system, the Vice President told the graduating cadets that they were entering an Army that has "borne the brunt of a lonely and difficult war, far from home, and in the face of open and hostile lack of support from a minority of our citizens."

"Despite that," he went on, "our deployed forces have stood between our Vietnamese allies and powerful enemies who were on the verge of enslaving them.

"They have simultaneously fought the big battles, advised and trained Vietnamese forces, helped them mobilize and expand, re-equipped and armed them, and protected a remarkable series of genuinely free elections resulting in the formulation of a constitutional government in the midst of war."

At the same time, he continued, American soldiers have found time "to turn to the Vietnamese with compassion and brotherhood."

Aid to Vietnamese Cited

"This is one side of the story you seldom see reported," he said. "Our soldiers have tended the sick, helped build hospitals, fed children, collected and distributed clothing, and done a thousand other things which said, 'I care.'"

Discussing the role of America as a great power, the Vice President said that "we will, no doubt, always have problems of one kind or another—but that is the human condition."

"But the man who devotes all his best efforts to moving us toward our ideal, not the one who stands aside loudly bewailing the distance yet to go, is the true producer," he said.

Mr. Agnew, accompanied by Under Secretary of the Army Thaddeus R. Beal, arrived at Michie Stadium at 10 A.M. after a trip by jet aircraft from Washington to Stewart Air

Force Base in nearby Newburgh and then a helicopter flight to West Point. The Vice President received heavy applause as he drove into the stadium in a black limousine.

Heavy Security Detail

There was a heavy security detail of Secret Service men attending the Vice President,

and friends and relatives of the graduating cadets were admitted to the stands only on presentation of a ticket.

There were none of the demonstrations or walkouts by antiwar graduates that have occurred at recent college commencements.

The Vice president handed out diplomas and personally congratulated the first 37 graduates who were designed "distinguished cadets" for their high general merit ranking.

He also gave out the diploma to the last man in the long gray line—the one with the lowest academic standing—Cadet Paul R. McDowell of Levittown, Pa., who acknowledged his tremendous ovation by waving his cap and taking a bow. Once off the platform, Cadet McDowell also brandished a plastic bag full of money—the traditional \$1 from each of his classmates for finishing last.

The first man to graduate, Cadet Jack C. Zoeller of Cheektowaga, N.Y., also received an ovation, as did several West Point athletes, including Cadet Gary R. Steele of Cresskill, N.J., a football star, and Cadet Frank M. Gyovai of Aurora, Ill., who was on the basketball team.

Stans Assails 'Flag Burners'

Special to The New York Times

KINGS POINT, L.I., June 3 (AP)—Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans said today that "the flag burners of 1970 will be held in history's contempt, with the cross-burners of the Ku Klux Klan."

"The destroyers of today will not survive, any more than the

witch burners of Colonial New England or the book burners of Hitler's Germany," he told a 183-man graduating class at the United States Merchant Marine Academy here.

"We have entered an age of



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Youngster making off with batch of cadets' hats that were thrown in traditional ceremony. They were expendable.

dissent," Mr. Stans declared, "and dissent itself is clearly a healthy condition in a free society. The country thrives on honest disagreement and constructive criticism.

"But there are in the nation some who transform agreement into ultimatum and criticism into battle. As they have become loud and destructive, they have damaged confidence and optimism at home and abroad....

"These apostles of violence insist that nothing is right with America, and everything is wrong. They lean on simplistic slogans, and they violate the right of dissent with intolerance and disorder."

In a positive tone, Mr. Stans told the future merchant-ship officers that "I do not believe the merchant marine service of the United States has ever stood on the brink of greater development." He said the Nixon Administration had programmed the building of 300 huge, containerized merchant ships in the decade beginning in 1972.