

Mrs. Smith Warns of Repression

She Assails Militant Students and Their Critics in Capital

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WASHINGTON, June 1—Senator Margaret Chase Smith spoke today of a "national sickness" pervading the land, and she denounced both protesting student militants and their critics in the Administration.

It was the 20th anniversary of a speech in which the Maine Republican, speaking from the same Senate desk, attacked the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin for irresponsible political tactics, and she recalled some of that speech today.

"I spoke as I did 20 years ago because of what I considered to be the great threat from the radical right—the threat of a government of repression," Senator Smith declared.

"I speak today," she said, "because of what I consider to be the great threat from the radical left that advocates and practices violence and defiance of the law—again, the threat of the ultimate result of a reaction of repression."

While she was sharply critical of student demonstrators



Margaret Chase Smith talks to newsmen after speech

Associated Press

who commit crimes, the 72-year-old Senator indicated her belief that overreaction by Administration officials — she declined to name names — contributed substantially to the problem.

The Senator said she was "not proud of the way in which our national television networks and campuses have been made publicity platforms for

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Senator Warns Leftists of Repression

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irresponsible sensationalism—nor am I proud of the counter-criticism against the networks and the campuses that has gone beyond the bounds of reasonableness and propriety and fanned, instead of drenching, the fires of division.”

Asked after the speech if this had been a reference to Vice President Agnew, Mrs. Smith replied that she was “not going into personalities” now although she might at a later date.

“Extremism bent upon polarization of our people is increasingly forcing upon the American people the narrow choice between anarchy and repression,” the Senator warned. “And make no mistake about it, if that narrow choice has to be made, the American people, even if with reluctance and

misgiving, will choose repression.”

“Ironically, the excesses of dissent in the extreme left can result in repression of dissent,” she added. “For repression is preferable to anarchy and nihilism to most Americans.”

Mrs. Smith indicated that she regarded today’s conflicts and criticism just as seriously as she did the excesses of McCarthyism 20 years earlier, whatever the official stance of the Administration may be.

“The President denies we are in a revolution,” she said. “There are many who would not agree with his appraisal. Anarchy may seem nearer to many of us than it really is.”

The Senator said that just as in the 1950’s “the Senate was silenced and politically intimidated by one of its own members, so today many Americans are intimidated and made mute

by the emotional violence of the extreme left.”

“It is time that the greater center of our people,” she continued, “those who reject the violence and unreasonableness of both the extreme right and extreme left, searched their consciences, mustered their moral and physical courage, shed their intimidated silence and declared their consciences.”

Three weeks ago at Colby College in Waterville, Me., Mrs. Smith reported today, her efforts to answer questions were greeted in some instances with hisses and obscenities.

Mrs. Smith’s speech was well received by the small group of Senators on the floor to hear it. They ranged from liberals—Senators Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Charles H. Percy, Republican of Illinois, to conservatives, Senators John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, and John J. Williams, Republican of Delaware.