

.... Nazi storm troopers and hippies who demonstrate on college campuses.

There was the Vice-President, last night, with some "I told you so" words, saying that in several recent speeches he had called attention to the grave dangers which he said "accompany the new politics of violence and confrontation." "And today," he said last night, "at a state college in Ohio the powder keg exploded," resulting in tragedy that was, in the Vice-President's words, "predictable and avoidable." The Vice-President's critics argue that his prophecy was self-fulfilling, that when he used words of high emotional rating such as "weirdos" and "effete snobs" or that when the President himself used the term "bums," the emotional octane on campuses was raised. The Vice-President's admirers quote Mr. Agnew as saying "We need to divide along real lines."

There is some historical evidence that when it becomes popular to call identifiable groups by names that suggest they are less than normal, a temptation grows to consider them less than human. Blacks in this country remember some of those names under which some of them were lynched, and they were not their Christian names. Nazi Germany turned a religious identification into a dirty name, and Germans were able to put other Germans away because they were called Juden and wore the Star of David. In Vietnam the anesthetizing character of words is clear in the names "dink," "slope," "gook" for people whose real names are Lien or Huan or something else. It is fair to ask if a besieged Guardsman finds it easier to fire into a group of "wierdos" or "bums" than it is to shoot at students, or girls named Sandy Scheuer, Allison Krause, or boys named Jeffrey Miller or William Schneider. The answer must not be presumed, because the President made clear his eloquent views on bringing the nation together in a speech on Sept. 19, 1968, when as a candidate he said, "The next President must unite America. He must calm its angers, ease its terrible frictions, and bring its people together once again in peace and mutual respect."

So, as we said at the beginning, silence is so tempting today because all the words are already there.

This was "Mid-Day Report," John Hart in Washington on CBS Radio.

*did not tune in in time for beginning of program.