

Agnew Denounces University Quotas To Help Minorities

By SETH S. KING

Special to The New York Times

CHICAGO, Feb. 12—Vice President Agnew criticized tonight colleges and universities that are now admitting minority groups on the basis of quotas rather than aptitude for learning.

Mr. Agnew said that, by "some strange madness," some educators now believe that the "exigencies of society" demand that attendance at universities should be determined by ethnic or racial quotas rather than solely by an applicant's ability to learn or teach.

The Vice President was the guest speaker before 2,000 cheering Illinois Republicans who paid \$100 each to honor the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and increase their party's campaign fund.

Shifting his fire from Sen-

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Agnew Denounces University Quotas

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ator J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, and those he deemed "ultra-left" destroyers of academic freedom at a Lincoln Day dinner in St. Louis Tuesday, the Vice President denounced as "supercilious sophisticates" those who are now advocating "open admissions" at the universities.

In the text of his prepared speech, which was released before delivery, Mr. Agnew did not single out any college or university as an example for his criticism.

The City University of New York will begin open admissions next September. Any graduate of a New York City High School who applies will be assigned either to a junior or senior college in the university, regardless of his academic standing.

Many other universities are now making allowances for some minority students to aid them in qualifying for admission.

Mr. Agnew said that universities should remain free to

pursue the truth and that "the free university should be loyal to a free society while carefully protecting and preserving its autonomy."

"Certainly neither a university, a business firm, nor a labor union should discriminate among applicants upon any basis other than aptitude for learning and practicing its craft," he declared, "but it should discriminate upon this basis."

Questions Posed

He said that for those who think there should be racial or socio-economic class quotas in college admissions he would ask these questions:

"When next you are sick, do you wish to be attended by a physician who entered medical school to fill a quota or because of his medical aptitude? When next you build a house, do you want an architect selected for school by aptitude or by quota?"

Mr. Agnew said the criterion for academic competence had in the past sometimes been honored more in the breach than in the observance.

"But surely," he went on,

"that is no reason to abandon it, as happens when the concept of what is erroneously called 'open admissions' makes its way among some of our supercilious sophisticates."

This practice has the "pernicious result" of creating a vested interest in seeing that those admitted this way succeed, he said.

"The same pressures which operated to bring about the favored admissions status of those admitted because of race, socio-economic class, or ethnic background, continue to operate in favor of their successful completion of studies undertaken," the Vice President said.

Attacks on Lincoln Recalled

Without once mentioning the Democratic party, Mr. Agnew devoted the first half of his speech to an appreciation of Abraham Lincoln as a man who in his own time was frequently attacked by "hot-blooded political partisans."

Without alluding to the present, Mr. Agnew said Lincoln was also frequently attacked for his jests (even though this

to Help Ethnic Minorities

sense of humor often relieved his terrible burdens.

"It is always instructive to seek parallels between the times of great men and our own times," the Vice President observed.

He then noted that in 1861 a "dissatisfied minority" tried to secede, an act that he described as civil disobedience.

"Civil disobedience, whether it takes the form of secession, of trespassing, or disruption of a college campus,

is placing one's self above the law and implies a superiority to the law-abiding," he declared.

This, he went on, constituted a denial of the equality pronounced in the Declaration of Independence and rededicated by Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address.

Mr. Agnew said those who denounced all limitations on complete personal freedom and on civil disobedience were more likely to curtail freedom than to sustain it.