

2 State Lawmakers Say Agnew Is Confused About Open Entries

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The chairman and the former chairman of the state's Joint Legislative Committee on Higher Education said yesterday that Vice President Agnew had mistakenly equated "open admissions" with ethnic quotas in his criticism Thursday night of college and university admissions practices.

The two legislators—Assemblyman Milton Jonas, a Nassau County Republican, who is the present chairman, and Senator Manfred Ohrenstein, a Manhattan Democrat who formerly headed the committee, issued a joint statement declaring:

"Mr. Agnew's remarks in Chicago confused open admissions with ethnic quotas. They are polar opposites: one directed at providing equal access to higher education; the other aimed at excluding students because of their race, creed or national origin."

"No responsible person in New York State higher education advocates admission to college by ethnic quota. They do favor open admissions, as do the Governor, the Mayor of New York City and the New York State Board of Regents."

Focus of Talk Assailed

The two legislators said that it would have been more appropriate if Mr. Agnew had in his Lincoln's Day address commented on lingering injustices in American higher education "than to criticize those who are exerting heroic efforts to open the doors of our college campuses."

The Vice President, in his Chicago address criticized colleges and universities that are

admitting minority groups on the basis of quotas rather than aptitude for learning. He also denounced as "supercilious sophisticates" those who are now advocating "open admissions" at the universities.

Mr. Agnew did not single out any college or university as an example for his criticism.

The City University of New York is planning to begin open admissions next fall. Under this system, any high school graduates who applies will be admitted to either a two-year community college or four-year senior college.

Mr. Agnew's remarks in Chicago were criticized by Henry Siltzman, the newly appointed acting president of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

Remarks Ill-Advised

Mr. Saltzman said, in a statement issued by the college, that "Vice President Agnew's criticism of university quotas to help minority groups, as reported in the press, was intemperate and ill-advised and should be challenged by the educators of the country."

Pratt, which is operated under private auspices, has 4,500 students, including about 450 blacks.

The Vice President's address also drew criticism from Dr. Alvin F. Poussaint, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, and Dr. James P. Comer, associate dean and assistant professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. The two deans, both of whom are black, said in a joint statement:



No continuation