

The Spokesman

Today's Agnew, Yesterday's Nixon

WASHINGTON — (CST) — An administration official suggested yesterday that there is a parallel between Vice President Agnew's speeches and the 1954 campaign attacks by another Vice President, Richard Nixon.

In the first midterm congressional elections during Dwight Eisenhower's presidency, Nixon operated in much the same style as Agnew.

While Eisenhower refused either to approve or repudiate his tactics, the vice president flailed away at the communists - in - government theme and other partisan issues.

Nixon Accused

Nixon became an issue himself in that campaign year.

Stephen Mitchell, then the Democratic National Chairman, accused him of "outright falsehoods" for having stated that, "we're kicking the communists and fellow travelers and security risks out of the government not by the hundreds but by the thousands."

In a controversial speech in June of that year, Nixon blamed the foreign policies of the Truman administration for the crisis in Indo-

china, which would later result in the loss of that nation by the French.

"Rather than let the communists nibble us to death all over the world in little wars," he said, the Republican administration's policy would be to "rely on our massive mobile retaliatory power."

Bad Results

Nixon's campaigning efforts ended disastrously. The Democrats picked up 17 seats in the House and 2 in the Senate.

The official discussed administration affairs informally with newsmen but asked not to be identified. He is the first White House figure to permit himself to concede — or at least to imply, even anonymously — that the President is directing Agnew's attacks.

As vice president in 1954, Nixon was "cracking away pretty hard," the administration source recalled. "There might be a parallel here."