

# Agnew, in Between His Fiery Banquet Speeches,

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CLEVELAND, June 21 — The man who came to dinner here last night to arouse the passions of 1,400 listeners and nearly as many demonstrators left in the rain today without a peep and with scarcely a spectator.

He was Vice President Agnew, the hottest property the Republican party has had on its banquet circuit since the party first trotted out an elephant. Since Feb. 1, he has raised more than \$3-million in campaign funds by raising his voice at banquets from coast to coast.

But the Spiro T. Agnew who delivers the thumping speeches, such as the slashing attack here last night on foreign policy doves, travels the campaign trail with as much drama and panoply as a businessman flying to Peoria.

For Mr. Agnew, the medium is the message. Before he delivers it and after the applause has died down, he is a private person. He spends most of his time in his hotel room. He sticks to his schedule. He devotes little time to the politicians and party members who pay anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000 apiece to hear his oratory.

His style, when he does mingle with Republican contributors or leaders, is as low-key as his statements are provocative.

## A Sought-After Speaker

It is because of his comments in public — and the way they keep popping up on the 11 P.M. news programs — that Mr. Agnew has become the most sought-after speaker in his party.

Before the Vice President electrified a New Orleans audience, and the nation, eight months ago by attacking "an effete corps of impudent snobs," his office was receiving about 25 speaking invitations a day. He was asked to appear at such events as the fourth annual Chitlin Strut and Country Music Fair in Salley, S. C., and the dedication of the world's tallest totem pole in Haines, Alaska.

Since Mr. Agnew began speaking his mind in a string of provocative phrases, the invitations have doubled, and they no longer come from what Ernest Minor, the Vice President's chief scheduler, described the other day as "the backyard barbecues."

In the last seven days, Mr. Agnew has addressed an international conference of newspaper publishers in Washington,

## Maintains a Low-Key Style

4,500 Republicans in Detroit, a public affairs seminar of corporation executives in Washington and the 1,000 Clevelanders last night.

This week he will fly to Hot Springs, Ark., to meet with a convention of sheriffs and to Denver for another party fund-raiser.

And Mr. Agnew's office is making preparations for three or four speeches a week between Labor Day and the November elections.

Nearly as interesting as what Mr. Agnew says at such functions is what he does while crisscrossing the country to attend them.

On short hops he travels with a small staff — J. Roy Goodearle, his tour guide and traveling political adviser; Dr. William Voss, his personal physician and Miss Mary Ellen Warner, one of his secretaries — and he travels in a small Air Force Jetstar that seats eight.

On longer trips he may take one or two more staff members.

Usually such junkets are in

an Air Force C-135 plane that has no windows and a stripped-down interior.

The Vice President mingles with his guests on the airplane, drinking lemonade, or goes over the itinerary for his next stop. He sits, with his wife, Judy, when she accompanies him, at a table covered with a white tablecloth. Several similar tables are arranged in the aircraft's cabin, and the staff members sit near him.

Just before each landing, Mr. Agnew and the staff compete to try to determine the exact moment of touchdown — which they cannot tell visually in the windowless aircraft. They each hold a hand above the tables, and, at the precise second they think the wheels will hit the runway, slap the

table. More often than not, Mr. Agnew wins.

On the ground, the Vice President is rarely met by a large crowd. Customarily, only a handful of Republican officials are waiting at a hangar some distance from the airport terminal. In Cleveland, the Vice President's arrival time was not even announced to local officials, and his "motorcade" consisted solely of his own bullet-proof black limousine.

At the hotel where he waits to give his speech, Mr. Agnew rests in his room and goes over the political summaries provided by Mr. Goodearle. They tell him who his hosts are, what he can expect at the appearance and the political situation in the host state.

At some stops, Mr. Agnew

may meet with party dignitaries or talk with them by telephone, although more often he remains secluded in his room.

Even Mr. Agnew's style of speaking is subdued. The impact of his words is much more forceful in print than in person. He stands calmly at a podium and recites his text, raising his voice only occasionally.

His biggest reaction from his audiences normally comes when he delivers an opening quip. Some of these quips are contributed by Bob Hope. In Detroit the other night, the Vice President wowed his listeners with a reference to the Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, whose relationship with the White House is less than placid.

"I don't know what's going

to happen to Secretary Hickel," the Vice President said. "On the one hand, President Nixon told me it'd be a cold day in July when Secretary Hickel would be replaced. On the other hand, you have to remember Secretary Hickel comes from Alaska."

What strikes many observers as a curiosity is Mr. Agnew's seeming indifference to the opportunity to build his own political base while crisscrossing the country.

It would be easy enough to do, as Mr. Nixon did in 1966 by campaigning on behalf of Republican Congressional candidates. Yet, to the dismay of one of Mr. Agnew's aides, the Vice President rarely goes out of his way to become acquainted with the local party

professionals who will be delegates to future nominating conventions.

In fact, Mr. Agnew's campaign trips are much more reminiscent of those made by Mr. Nixon in 1954 when he was Vice President and sought, unsuccessfully, to win a Congressional majority for his party by hurling provocative charges at the Democrats.

However muted Mr. Agnew's campaign trips are, there is little doubt that they are attracting attention because of what he says.

"From the standpoint of getting maximum attention with a minimum of effort, he is a scheduler's dream," Mr. Minor said. "Why, he can go on a tennis court and get front-page coverage."