

Demo TV Assault on Nixon 'Performance Gap'

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Washington

The Democratic national committee, opening a novel television assault on President Nixon, laid down the political theme last night that the Republican administration is developing a "performance gap" between its promises and its deeds.

Lawrence F. O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic Committee, charged that the Nixon Administration had led

the economy into a simultaneous recession and inflation, contributed to divisions and polarization within the society, and failed to stop a rising crime rate.

He also said it had not "leveled" with the American people on the reasons for the Cambodian operation.

O'Brien delivered his multi-faceted indictment in the first of four political programs that the Democratic

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Demos' TV Assault On Nixon

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Committee will present over television and radio time made available by the Columbia Broadcasting System. The pre-recorded program was broadcast last night during prime television time.

The 25-minute program, entitled the "Loyal Opposition," combined film clips of presidential statements with rebuttals offered by O'Brien.

The purpose of the format was to compare Nixon statements on various domestic and foreign issues with the Democratic view of the actual record of the Nixon Administration in its first 18 months in office.

AGNEW

Thus, for example, the program opened with an excerpt from Mr. Nixon's inaugural address appealing for "lowered voices," followed by the observation by O'Brien that "today the divisions within our society are far greater than they were 18 months ago."

The program closed with a sharp attack on vice president Spiro Agnew, who O'Brien charged was contributing to the "polarization" within the society by words that "can only lead to further division and mistrust among our people."

"In attacking the loyalty of millions who sincerely question the course of the present administration," O'Brien said, "the vice president is himself questioning and jeopardizing the very democratic tradition that has made us strong."

CAMBODIA

On Cambodia, O'Brien suggested that the President had offered changing reasons for the intervention, first contending the attack was on a key communist headquarters and then later stating that one purpose was to preserve the new government in Phnom Penh.

While eschewing any intentions of "taking on" the President on military decisions, O'Brien said "I do want the President to level with us."