

Agnew and Students Deadlocked on Hard Hats

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Vice President Agnew, wrangling with student leaders here last night, said it was "understandable" that construction workers attacked antiwar demonstrators.

The Vice President, debating the war in Vietnam, violence in America and his own rhetoric with five students during a taping of the nationally syndicated David Frost television show, said that he did not condone any form of violence. The show will be telecast in most cities on Friday.

But he said there was a "fundamental difference" between campus disorders that broke out across the country following the United States incursion into Cambodian sanctuaries last spring and the angry outbursts by "hard-hat" construction workers.

"Campus disruptions were not spontaneous," Mr. Agnew said. "They were not the result of a rage that swept a person who worked with his hands to build America [and saw] people advocating that it be torn down. This [the hard-hat attacks] was a wave in defense of a country, not a wave to destroy a country," he added.

Richard Silverman, one of the students selected to appear with the Vice President on the taping of the Frost show, retorted that Mr. Agnew had failed to understand "how disgusting, how abhorrent it was" for opponents of the Vietnamese war to encounter what appeared to them to be a widening of it when President Nixon sent American troops into Cambodia.

In a 90-minute encounter, neither Mr. Agnew nor the students gave any sign that they had increased their understanding of each other's positions—although that was what the Vice President said, at the outset, he was seeking to do by meeting with the campus leaders.

"You're doing us a great disservice," Eva Jefferson, the black president of the students at Northwestern University, told Mr. Agnew. "You're making people afraid of their own children."

Miss Jefferson got into an exchange with Mr. Agnew about her previous testimony before the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.

The Vice President accused

Miss Jefferson of having told the commission "the only way to get the attention of society is to bomb buildings."

Miss Jefferson, however, shot back that Mr. Agnew was making an incorrect and personal attack on her, which, she contended, typified his reaction to criticism from public officials.

She said that the remark Mr. Agnew quoted had been taken out of context from testimony in which she sought to explain to the campus commission the feelings of students at Northwestern who did condone violence.

"Even a tacit acceptance of violence is wrong," replied Mr. Agnew. He then told Miss Jef-

erson that she had demanded the impeachment of President Nixon, adding, "I don't know how you missed me."

Miss Jefferson again denied this and said that her testimony had been representative of the views of a minority of students. She said that, as their elected student president, she had felt compelled to present their case to the commission.

"This is one of the problems," said Miss Jefferson, looking at Mr. Agnew. "You're not listening to what I'm saying."

Gregory B. Craig, an antiwar demonstrator who is a second-year student at Yale University Law School, accused the Vice

President of dealing in personalities rather than issues in the public speeches that had drawn wide attention.

The Vice President said that the political climate always had an "adversary" quality. "My rhetoric is no different from the rhetoric that's been turned upon me," he said.

When one of the students referred to his tendency to use alliterative phrases in his speeches, Mr. Agnew noted that it was not new in American history. He recalled his use of the phrase, "pusillanimous pussyfooters" in a campaign speech and said, "I stole it from Teddy Roosevelt."