

AGNEW DEPLORES 'PERMISSIVENESS'

SEP 26 1970

Says His Political Mission Is To Arouse a Desire for National Self-Discipline

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Special to The New York Times

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 25—Vice President Agnew described for a Republican audience tonight his political mission for 1970: to arouse Americans to a desire for stronger national self-discipline and to help elect candidates who oppose "the trend toward permissiveness."

Emphasizing broad philosophical concerns rather than the immediate campaign situation here, the Vice President argued that a new "age of indulgence" had permeated the nation's schools, courts, culture and society to the detriment of "freedom and justice."

"This pervasive policy of permissiveness has turned out to be a tragic mistake," Mr. Agnew declared. "It has replaced respect for authority with fear of repression. And that, my friends, is not progress toward greater freedom and justice."

In a change of pace from his

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previous campaign appearances this fall, Mr. Agnew did not attribute the problem under attack to the Democratic party, its Presidents of the 1960's or its leadership in the present Congress.

Explaining his role, the Vice President said:

"I have been traveling the length of this land in recent weeks with a double mission: specifically, to help elect men to public office who will lean hard against the trend toward permissiveness and who understand its terrible consequences in terms of disruption and violence.

"More generally, my mission is to awaken Americans to the need for sensible authority, to jolt good minds out of the lethargy of habitual acquiescence, to mobilize a silent majority that cherishes the right values but has been bulldozed for years into thinking those values are embarrassingly out of style."

The Vice President conceded that he had used "colorful language" on occasion in his past speeches because "you cannot awaken people with a whisper."

"Of course, I seek to make my views heard," he told a Republican dinner at the Milwaukee Arena. "A call to intellectual combat cannot be issued by a flute; it needs a trumpet. And of course I am often met with outraged reaction; I am challenging the very articles of faith of people who get their opinions second-hand."

Nations's Greatest Need

"Before we as a people can properly address ourselves to any national issue," Mr. Agnew said, "Each one of us must address himself to this personal issue: How can we re-instill a sense of discipline in our thinking?" He continued:

"Discipline is a harsh word. But my friends, there is no greater need in the American body politic today than the need for discipline.

"Here is what I mean. During the past generation, a philosophy of permissiveness has permeated American life.

"In our schools, the ability to adjust became more important than the ability to excel.

"In our courts, the rights of the accused became more im-



Associated Press

ARRIVES IN MILWAUKEE: Vice President Agnew being greeted by Gov. Warren P. Knowles of Wisconsin. Behind them are Jack Olson, Republican candidate for Governor, and John Erickson, top, G.O.P. nominee for U.S. Senate.

portant than the rights of the victims.

"In our legislatures, the temptation to spend exceeded the willingness to tax.

"In our culture, the need to protect free expression overrode the need to restrain bad taste and outrageous vulgarity.

"In our society, the need to escape was exalted and the need to cope was demeaned.

"In our families, the desire to give our young people a more pleasant life overcame the responsibility to give them firm guidance.

"In short, we have gone

through a debilitating, enervating age of indulgence."

Mr. Agnew then pondered the results of this age and asked: "Can we say as a result that the upcoming generation is any happier than the previous generation? Is it more productive, more responsible, more capable of human dignity?" Answering his own questions, he said:

"I think not. More of our young people are alienated than ever before; more are lonely; more are inclined to drop out of society; more are inclined toward violence. This is not only my assessment; it is theirs as well."

Blame for Problem

Mr. Agnew said that the blame for any individual's "breaking the rules" should be fully shared by the individual, "the permissive parent, the permissive teacher, the permissive [college] administrator." But, one sentence later, he declared:

"That philosophy of holding everybody responsible actually holds nobody responsible, and it provides the rationale for an unconscionable and ultimately cruel leniency."

The Vice President rejected the theory that the war in Vietnam had disillusioned the present generation of young people more deeply or radically than previous wars had affected their elders.

"The age of indulgence cannot find an alibi in the war in Vietnam," he said. "In the past 28 years, we have had 14 years of war. It is not the special affliction of today's youth."

The Vice President said that "easy automatic responses" had been substituted for discipline.

"First," he said, "there is the hero-villain lineup. To many of us, and especially to many young people, the World appears divided in to good guys and bad guys. If somebody is not with you all the way, he is against you. If McGovern is for it, it has to be right; if the President is for it, it has to be wrong. If a liberal proposes it, it is probably good; if a conservative, it's probably bad."

"Second," he said "there is the requirement for instant gratification. The decree that infants should be fed on demand and not on a schedule has been elevated to dogma up to age 30. Now many say that

patience or even prudence is not a virtue, it is a weakness; if satisfaction cannot be guaranteed right now, this minute, then the system is sick and unresponsive and needs major surgery instantly.

"Third," he continued, "there is geneophobia, the fear of another generation. The idea is all other groups in society are linked up in a conspiracy to frustrate the legitimate demands of youth. The other generation refuses to "listen" or "communicate"—which most often means, they refuse to follow suggestions."

The 'Double Standard'

"Fourth," the Vice President concluded, there is "the intellectual double standard. Here are a few:

"Seniority and tenure are right in a university and wrong in a Congress, because a university is a special place.

"Shutting out views that oppose yours is right, and others shutting out our views is wrong, because what you say is the revealed truth.

"Senator Fulbright's record on civil rights is inconsequential because he is a dove, but other Senators are hypocrites for bowing to home state political pressures.

"Cyclamates should be taken off the market because we do not have proof that they are harmless, and marijuana should be legalized because we do not have proof that it is harmful.

In a preface to his philosophical discussion, the Vice President called for the election of Jack Olson, the Republican candidate for Governor of Wisconsin, to succeed the retiring Governor, Warren P. Knowles. The Democratic candidate is former Lieut. Gov. Patrick Lucey, and the contest is regarded as close.

Mr. Agnew also called the Republican Senate candidate, John Erickson, "a man that Wisconsin and the nation will come to know and deeply respect in the years ahead." His Democratic opponent, Senator William O. Proxmire, is an odds-on favorite to win re-election.

Mr. Agnew flew into Milwaukee this afternoon in his chartered campaign jet, attended two fund-raising receptions before the party dinner and then flew back to Washington late this evening.