

Hickel's View

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The Rhetoric of Division**Washington**

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel spoke out yesterday against "the old rhetoric of polarization" in a speech which seemed to put him at odds again with Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

"Of course rioting and violence are negative," Hickel told the American Association of Student Governments.

"So is the rhetoric of polarization. As hard as we may try, we cannot tear the nation together.

Hickel, in a now-famous plea to President Nixon last May, made it clear he thought Agnew's sharp criticism of young dissenters was dividing the nation.

Hickel did not mention Agnew yesterday, even indirectly, and aides said he was speaking of polarization "from many quarters."

But, unlike speeches prepared routinely by aides for Cabinet members, the key passages of this speech were written by Hickel himself.

It appeared that he has determined to present himself as an alternative voice, saying what he thinks the administration should say.

"I refuse to agree with those who settle for cheap answers," Hickel said. "They want the government to deal with consequences not causes.

"These are the people who demand law and order, but refuse to concern themselves with why there is hatred, frustration and violence in the land.

"They want a crackdown on drug traffic, but they don't address themselves to why there is the boredom and emptiness which craves escape."

"I, for one," he added, "find the student mood and movement at a most hopeful stage.

"There is a depth of maturity entering into it — a bigness of understanding which puts to shame some of the

thinking I hear coming from other quarters. "When change is found difficult," he continued, "the

immature turn to violence or they drop out. The mature dig in."

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