

AGNEW CONDEMNS REPORT ON UNREST

He Alleges 'Scapegoating'—
Says That Nixon 'Cannot
Replace Campus Cop'

SEP 30 1970

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Special to The New York Times

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., Sept. 29—Vice President Agnew charged here today that the Presidential Commission on Campus Unrest had indulged in "scapegoating" of the most irresponsible sort in saying that only the President could offer the moral leadership needed to reunite the country.

"The United States is not the policeman of the world, and the President cannot replace the campus cop," Mr. Agnew told 1,100 applauding Republicans at a campaign luncheon in the Sioux Falls Arena. His remarks were telecast live in four states.

The Vice President said that the commission's report, issued Saturday in Washington, was "imprecise, contradictory and equivocal," and its recommendations were "sure to be taken as more pabulum for the permissivists."

In Washington, meanwhile,

Continued on Page 14, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 2

66 Representatives including five Democrats, signed a letter to President Nixon stating that the Commission on Campus Unrest "blatantly disregards" the President's efforts and ignored reality in its recommendations.

Before delivering his address, Mr. Agnew stopped briefly at the local motel to speak off the cuff with delegates to a convention of the South Dakota Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association. He told them that the Federal Government's role in law enforcement was to "set the moral tone."

Report Called Unfair

All the same, the thrust of his political speech was that it was unfair of the campus commission—and of news media and academicians who had "truncated and distorted" its report—to ascribe to the President the role of moral leader in calming campus tensions.

The commission unanimously condemned fanatical students, complacent college officials, repressive legal officers and the inflammatory rhetoric of politicians.

"We strongly urge public officials at all levels of government to recognize that their public statements can either heal or divide," the commission said. "Harsh and bitter rhetoric can set citizen against citizen, exacerbate tension and encourage violence."

Mr. Agnew made it clear that he did not intend to interpret the commission's plea as a compelling argument to tone down his own rhetoric.

"The suggestion that vigorous public condemnation of

antisocial conduct is somehow, ex post facto, a cause of that conduct is more of the same remorseless nonsense that we have been hearing for years," he told his Sioux Falls audience.

Mr. Agnew objected today, however, that the report emphasized that "only the President can offer the compassionate, reconciling moral leadership that can bring the country together again."

He noted, as the commission had, that campus unrest could be traced back to at least four years before Mr. Nixon's election in 1968.

"To lay responsibility for ending student disruptions at the doorstep of this President, in office 20 months, is 'scapegoating' of the most irresponsible sort," Mr. Agnew said.

He consistently referred to the panel as The "Scranton Commission," a reference to its chairman, William W. Scranton, former Governor of Pennsylvania.

Not once did he call it by its official name, the Presidential Commission on Campus Unrest, which indicates that all of its members were appointed by Mr. Nixon.

The Vice President complained that the report "condemns with an even hand the disruptions by students that have very nearly destroyed many American colleges and the vigorous public denunciation of those disruptions by academicians and public men who were alert to the danger long ago."

"The commission," he said, "rebukes those who outspokenly condemn campus disorder and violence, while it exempts from criticism those public officials who had excused, con-

doned and encouraged disruption for an entire decade.

"The commission tells us that many students believe ours is a corrupt, repressive society engaged in an immoral war, but the commission could not muster the moral courage to declare the utter falsehood of that particular charge."

In its call for a figurative "cease-fire" between student dissenters and society, Mr. Agnew said, the commission "assumes a posture of neutrality as between the fireman and the arsonist."

Moral Leadership

President Nixon demonstrated moral leadership—"the likes of which this nation has not seen in many a year"—by continuing to pursue peace without surrender in Vietnam, the Vice President said.

Mr. Nixon also did this, he said, by making "painful" decisions to curb inflation, by "resisting every outside pressure to impose his will on college campuses," by reordering national priorities and by staking his political future on an American combat assault on Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

Mr. Agnew received a loud round of applause when he said that "primary responsibility for maintaining academic freedom within a campus community does not belong on the steps of the White House—as some commissioners suggest—[but] on the steps of the university administration building and at the door of the faculty lounge."

He chided the commissioners for recommending expanded Federal aid to colleges and universities. "That sounds to me

suspiciously like a call for a payoff," he said.

He continued to attack "radical liberals" in Congress, whom he blames for fostering a permissive attitude among the young. He said that Democratic Senator George S. McGovern of South Dakota had a voting record that was "100 per cent on the radical-liberal index."

In the text of a speech prepared for delivery tonight at a Republican rally in Minot, N. D., the Vice President also defended anew the Southeast Asian "domino theory" which holds that the loss of South Vietnam to the Communists would imperil a string of neighboring nations.