

CRA Meet in Palo Alto

Agnew Outwits Protesters

By Sydney Kossen
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Vice President Agnew outmaneuvered a planned demonstration by more than 1000 war protesters and young radicals in Palo Alto yesterday.

Agnew's schedule was secretly changed.

He spoke at a luncheon instead of a Saturday night banquet to a largely conservative Republican audience of 650, twitting the Democrats as the "party of the past" and urging unity to re-elect President Nixon and give him a GOP Congress.

Then through a heavy security screen, Agnew left for Palm Springs long before the protesters began to assemble outside the Cabana Hyatt House.

Loud But Peaceful

The number of demonstrators grew to more than 1000 during the evening but, under the watchful eyes of 150 riot-equipped Santa Clara County deputies, Palo Alto police and California Highway Patrolmen, they remained loud but peaceful.

Governor Reagan, under heavy guard, entered and left the convention without incident. Inside, he drew cheers when he called for President Nixon to use "all available American airpower" until the last American troops are out of Vietnam.

By mid-evening, the crowd of demonstrators had dwindled to about 200 and a short march along El Camino Real preceded dispersal.

A police mutual aid call was put out early in the evening but was quickly canceled when it became apparent police from neighboring jurisdictions were unneeded.

'What Demonstration?'

The Vice President's press secretary, Victor Gold, denied any intention of frustrating the demonstration.

"What demonstration?" Gold demanded. Told that it has been widely publicized in Bay Area newspapers, Gold said, "I don't read the underground press."

He said Agnew, who arrived unannounced in Palo Alto last night, agreed to substitute for former Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard at the luncheon because "Packard had a personal emergency."

A newsman pointed out that Packard, who lives in the area, arrived at the head table with Agnew.

"Why is Packard here?" a reporter asked.

"I don't know why," Gold snapped, "Ask him!"

The press secretary became resentful at further questions during the impromptu interview on the banquet floor.

Packard Explains

Packard shed a little more light when he spoke at the CRA banquet last night, saying, "I want to apologize for this last minute change of plans. I had to be in New York this week and was not sure I could be back in time for the luncheon session. The Vice President graciously arranged to exchange places with me."

In his speech, Packard discussed U.S. foreign policy and the nation's defense posture. He is Nixon's Bay Area campaign manager and, like Agnew earlier, made a pitch for campaign support.

'Our Hero'

Hugh S. Koford, of Castro Valley, president of the California Republican Assembly, introduced Agnew to the CRA convention delegates and guests as "Spiro, Our Hero."

The crowd stood, whistled and applauded. Agnew drew a laugh at the start by "holding to my hope that the Democratic ticket will be Humphrey and Muskie because I don't believe you should break up a losing team."

He mentioned that the Democratic Party is broke, and he drew another laugh when he said that Democratic National Chairman Lawrence O'Brien "when last seen was hiking toward Provo, Utah, with a parachute on his back."

'Demo Ineptitude'

Agnew perhaps got his loudest applause by declaring: "A party that can't govern itself isn't fit to govern a country. And the Democrat-

ic Party of 1972 no less than the Democratic Party of 1968 has proven its utter ineptitude in this regard.

"It's not only because the Roosevelt coalition has disintegrated into a political version of the Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight. Nor is it simply because the Democratic Party has become the party of the intellectual mandarins of the left elite.

"It is because the Democratic Party has become the party of the past..."

As he continued reading most of his speech there were long periods of attentive silence until Agnew predicted Republicans will "go forward together to the establishment of a just and stable peace under the leadership of Richard Nixon."

This also may have been directed to militant right

wing conservative CRA delegates, who are dismayed at the President's policies and want to deliver the organization's endorsement today to Ohio Representative John M. Ashbrook.

Koford, an Oakland lawyer and member of the Nixon-pledged delegation in the June 6 GOP primary, predicted the President will win the CRA's backing at today's closing session.