

# 'Nixon Sole Authority in War'—Agnew

By Patrick J. Sloyan  
Examiner Correspondent

CHICAGO — Although it may be overshadowed in the coming campaign hoopla, Vice President Spiro Agnew has given one of the more significant speeches focusing on the great debate over how the United States gets into war.

Basically, Agnew said the President acting alone without congressional approval, must decide the nation's fate in foreign war in the nuclear age.

Agnew spelled out his view on the subject in a meeting of GOP fat-cats at a \$1000-a-plate fund raising dinner in the windy city.

Since the war in Vietnam, a debate has raged over whether the President alone can send American boys into combat without a declaration of war from Congress, a body considered more responsive to public opinion. There was never such a

declaration during the Vietnam war. Former President Lyndon Johnson and President Nixon cite the Gulf of Tonkin resolution as authority from Congress to do almost anything in Vietnam.

Lead by Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic presidential candidate, and others in Congress, anti-war forces have argued that the White House has in Vietnam exceeded its war-making authority.

## Constitution

Here is what Agnew said:

"The President's sole responsibility for developing and initiating foreign policy comes directly from our Constitution. The brevity of the Constitution in treating with this grave responsibility is in startling contrast with the complicated language we find in important documents today.

"Actually, the Constitution's simplicity on this subject reflects the realities of

the time when it was drafted.

"The United States then was separated from possible enemies by a long ship voyage, and the Founding Fathers reasonably could view international problems in a fairly relaxed way.

"Today, on the other hand, the frightening presence of the nuclear age hangs over the world: and nations face destruction within minutes after a decision to attack may be made.

## 'Not by Consensus'

"Because of the time limitations, foreign policy cannot be conducted by consensus.

"The complexity of the issues, coupled with the frequent need for secrecy, inhibits the formulation of an informed consensus in time to make vital policy judgments.

"Therefore, we are fortunate that these critical determinations are vested clearly

in our President, rather than in the Congress, or the bureaucracy, or an outside panel of experts.

"A President must be able to make hard choices and then rally the country to support his decision.

"He must have the foresight to perceive the national interest — not just today or next week or for his term of office, but for decades to come. He must have the courage of his convictions and once decided, the will to carry out policies in the face of strong, sometimes bitter, criticism.

## 'Boldness Required'

"Professional observers of the international scene frequently favor timidity when firmness, even boldness, is required."

"Men who bear no responsibilities for the consequences of the actions they recommend often are very free with advice.

"What chance would the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks have had if the President had listened to those critics who wanted to eliminate our only incentives for the Soviet Union to negotiate.

"Would there be a cease-fire in the Middle East had we either abandoned Israel or attempted to give her absolute military superiority in the area?"

"Had President Nixon not pursued the policy of Vietnamization while seeking a negotiated settlement, could our South Vietnamese allies have stood against the massive assault from the North of last March?"

## Withdrawals

"Richard Nixon has withdrawn 510,000 American troops, yet today the forces of the government of South Vietnam are successfully meeting the most critical challenge of the entire war.

"Richard Nixon seized the

opportunity and made his historic visits to Peking and Moscow. He opened new contacts and brought about new accords with old antagonists.

"The man must have courage.

"He must be strong enough to break with the past when necessary to meet emerging opportunities for a better future.

"Yet, he must stand firm when the occasion demands, often against the advice of a host of self-appointed counselors.

"This man must have determination — the determination to press ahead with progress, but to defend cherished and long-held values.

"President Nixon has these qualities — vision, courage, and determination. The accomplishments of his first term amply demonstrate what we can confidently expect from his second."