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Agnew Defines Limits On Power in Congress

Chicago

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said last night that the complexities of the nuclear age rule out a foreign policy conducted by consensus.

The vice president, returning to the campaign after

presiding over the Senate as it defeated an end-the-war amendment, said the nation is fortunate that "these critical determinations are vested clearly in our President, rather than in the Congress," or other groups.

Agnew made his state-

ment about presidential primacy in foreign policy in joining Republicans across the country in hailing President Nixon at a series of \$1000-a-plate fund-raising dinners.

CONTRAST

In his prepared remarks, the vice president contrasted the "brevity of the Constitution" in defining presidential responsibility for the conduct of foreign affairs with the modern world where "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.

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

"Therefore," the vice president said, "we are fortunate that these critical determinations are vested clearly in our president, rather than in the Congress, or the members of the professional bureaucracy, or an outside panel of experts."

He said that "a president must be able to make hard choices, alone, and then rally the country to support his decision," saying that criticism often comes from "men who bear no responsibilities for the consequences of the actions they recommend."

CONVENTION

Earlier in the day, Agnew bumped attorney general Richard Kleindienst off the program and addressed a convention of retired federal employees in Fort Worth, Tex.

Kleindienst had been scheduled to address the group but his speech was canceled upon Agnew's arrival.

Agnew said a better term for the elderly might be "experienced Americans" and predicted that their experiences would cause them to vote Republican this November.

"You've been through it all," Agnew said. "You've lived through four wars and you understand just how disastrous a policy of isolationism can be."

Kleindienst, who had flown in from Washington especially for the address, was "not happy" about the cancellation, according to an aide.

Associated Press