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HECKLERS CALLED FASCIST BY AGNEW

He Tells War Protesters to
Wear Brown Shirts and
Swastika Armbands

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SAN DIEGO, Nov. 1—Vice President Agnew unleashed today a verbal barrage at a group of Senator George McGovern's young supporters who tried to disrupt a Republican rally here, describing them as practitioners of "fascist tactics" and the "spiritual" progeny of Nazi Germany.

Confronted with their heckling, the most effective mounted against him in his campaign, he responded with his strongest language to date, suggesting that the shouting, singing protesters should wear brown shirts, symbols of fascism, and swastika armbands, the badge of the Nazis.

"Let me tell you this," he said, as the volume of his public address system was increased by several decibels, "storm trooper mentality in this country will fail just as it failed before. We will have free speech in this country."

Incident of Violence

As he was answering the taunts of the hecklers, one of the few incidents of violence in his campaign unfolded less than 30 feet in front of him.

A young protester, George Katsiaticus, described by a friend as a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, had been among the most stident of Mr. Agnew's hecklers. A large older man seated behind him apparently tired of his shouts and reached across to tap him on the shoulder.

When Mr. Katsiaticus turned, responding to the older man's touch, the man swung a roundhouse punch that connected full force on the young demonstrator's nose, staggering him and bringing forth blood.

Mr. Katsiaticus was hauled from the area by plainclothes San Diego policemen and arrested. The older man sat down and continued to watch the rally.

While Mr. Agnew has encountered oral antagonists before, he has consistently dealt with them in an off hand manner, joking about their presence or ignoring them or, as he did in Wilmington, Del., last week, lecturing them on courtesy and civility.

Today, however, he seemed genuinely perturbed and, at one point, quite angered as almost every word he spoke competed with a constant chorus of boos and rounds of antiwar, anti-President Nixon and anti-Agnew chants.

Many of the demonstrators, a distinct minority in the crowd of more than 4,000 people gathered in the San Diego Community Concourse in the heart of the city, blew steadily on shrill little police whistles of the kind that Mr. Agnew himself used to tease hecklers at campaign stops last week.

Moreover, about 25 or 30 of the protesters had infiltrated through a series of rope barriers and were seated in chairs that had been placed close to the speaker's platform and apparently reserved for honored guests at the rally.

The acoutical characteristics of the site itself also served to enhance the hecklers' effectiveness. The Vice President and his audience were at the bottom of a veritable canyon of buildings whose brick and concrete surfaces served as sounding boards both for his words and the young people's protestations.

Begins as Usual

Mr. Agnew began with them as he usually has, joking and making fun, but as their heckling continued and increased in volume and intensity he abandoned his standard patter and took the offensive.

"Since you apparently enjoy practicing fascist tactics, why not go all the way and wear brown shirts so we can tell who you are and what you are," he said.

"If you insist in preventing a person from exercising a constitutionally guaranteed right, why not wear swastika armbands and show your true colors?"

"Yeah," he said, "the same way your spiritual ancestors did in Germany in the nineteen-thirties."

Mr. Agnew has repeatedly criticized Senator McGovern for his early campaign comparisons of the Nixon Administration to the totalitarian policies of Hitler's Germany.

The protesters were undaunted. The whistling continued unabated, punctuated by chants of "Stop the war! Stop the war! Sign the treaty! Sign the treaty!"

Finally, the Vice President decided to end the battle of words. "If you think a small group of ideological fanatics like you are going to stop me from finishing this speech, you're crazy," he said.

Then, turning to the majority of the crowd, enthusiastic in its support of him, he said, "I will not give these people the satisfaction of paying any more attention to them today."

His remarks after that were reiterations of his campaign themes—including the one holding that President Nixon has brought stable leadership to the country that enator McGovern could not hope to match—but the heckling continued at full force.