

Agnew Stirs Age Group Conflict

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON
Special to The New York Times

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif., Nov. 1—"Agnew Is Doing Our Thing," declared a placard waved in the air by a white-haired woman in Tulsa, Okla., the other day. A retort came, in effect, on the sign of a young man in Lubbock, Tex.: "Silent Majority, shut up."

Similar signs and sentiments have accompanied the Vice President for two months now as he campaigned throughout the country for Republican Congressional and Senatorial candidates.

There have been incidents of violence or near violence, too. Two nights ago in Hammond, Ind., a middle-aged man and a long-haired youth almost came to blows within 100 feet of the Vice President. Four nights earlier a fistfight between men in their thirties and boys in their teens erupted outside the hall where Mr. Agnew spoke in Raleigh, N.C. Two days before that, four burly adults in Erie, Pa., menaced a solitary high school dissident until he packed up and left.

What it all seems to reflect is the phenomenon called the generation gap.

Some people, such as Dr. Benjamin Spock, who has accused Mr. Agnew of crossing state lines to incite violence, have made it appear as though the Vice President has widened a split in society with his oratory.

Others, including the Vice President himself, have implied that the split was not of his making, that he has done no more than articulate adult attitudes in their clash with a new and different culture of youth.

The Gap Is Visible

Whether either or neither is the case, no one will be able to determine with finality in the voting Tuesday. What can be said is that a generation gap has been clearly visible this fall on the fringes of the crowds gathered about the Vice President during the campaign that he wound up here today.

There always has been, there always will be and "I think there always should be a generation gap," Mr. Agnew said in a Salt Lake City television interview. "There should be a gap in the sense that a man is not a buddy to his children; he's a father. And a woman is not a contemporary of her daughter; she's a mother. A generation

however. Mrs. Sarah McGillis, for one. She stood outside Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh the other night, listening to the Vice President's remarks on a loudspeaker. Just as Mr. Agnew was counseling against violence over school desegregation, she recalled, a fistfight broke out right behind her.

The police quickly broke it up, but Mrs. McGillis, a pretty young woman married to a Duke University psychology student, expressed concern. "He's trying to make us hate them and make them hate us," she said of the Vice President. "It's so sad. I don't want to hate people who are like my parents."

In Tucson, Ariz., 200 youthful antiwar demonstrators sat in the street outside the hotel where Mr. Agnew spoke. Off to one side, a dozen middle-aged parishioners of St. Michael's Episcopal Church—which stands in a neighborhood of \$50,000 homes—marched in a circle behind their rector, the Rev. John C. Fowler, to express disdain for the tactics of both Mr. Agnew and the demonstrators.

'A Dangerous Man'

"Agnew is a dangerous man," said Mr. Fowler, limping each time he put his weight on the wooden leg that replaced one shot off in World War II in Germany. "He deliberately set about pitting one against another."

The minister brought part of his flock to show that there were "some middle-aged respectables" concerned about the "rhetoric of division."

"We're not too organized," he said. "We just came down to have a Scotch-and-soda and march awhile."

Many Americans clearly disagree with Mr. Fowler and Mrs. McGinnis. Some turn out to welcome the Vice President at airports and rallies, thanking him for saying what has been on their minds about a lot of subjects, including undisciplined youths. "He tells it as it is," said a 78-year-old retired grain elevator manager in Sioux Falls, S.D. "He don't take a back seat to anyone." Such remarks were common.

The Vice President—disturbed about youths who tossed missiles at the President's limousine in San Jose, Calif., and faced with several dozen demonstrators of his own—told a Belleville, Ill., audience that it was "time to sweep that kind of garbage out of our society."

that I didn't like how he talks.

SECOND MAN. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

YOUTH. Which is just as true as you coming to tell him you like it.

THIRD MAN. Why don't you write him a letter?

FOURTH MAN. Yeah. Write him a letter.

YOUTH. All right, I'll write him a letter.

THIRD MAN. Your parents know you're here?

YOUTH. Yes, sir.

THIRD MAN. They approve of what you're doing?

YOUTH. I don't know. I don't suppose they actually do.

The men stepped back and glared. The youth tucked his sign under his arm and left. The men moved up to an airport fence. Vice President Agnew, unaware of the incident, walked along the fence shaking hands.