

Agnew Hints Raid Was Set Up to Embarrass G.O.P.

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MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 19— Vice President Agnew's formal campaign began here today with a suggestion from him that the men indicted for the break-in at the Democratic headquarters in Washington last June were "set up" by someone attempting to embarrass the Republican party.

Asked to identify that person, Mr. Agnew declined and said he was merely adding his "personal theory to the mass of speculation that has accompanied this matter."

He brushed aside several more questions on the subject and then refused to discuss it further when reporter pressed him.

His remarks came during the first of a series of long news conferences planned for him during his travel as part of an effort to present himself as a more thoughtful, conciliatory candidate. His theory represented a striking departure from the rather palcid rhythms of his first campaign day's rhetoric.

In Washington before his departure, and here in this mid-western metropolis in a speech before a convention of municipal executives, the Vice President merely echoed the campaign theme already established by the President's other surrogates—one good term deserves another.

Moreover, in a series of con-

servations throughout the day with reporters, he offered a very modest appraisal of his own role in his party's attempt to re-elect the President.

Seeks to Bar Complacency

"Just keep the morale of the troops up and avoid complacency—that's our main task," he said at Washington's National Airport before boarding Michelle Ann 3d, one of two Boeing 727 airplanes chartered from American Airlines by the finance committee to re-elect the President.

The plane was named for Mr. Agnew's 5-year-old granddaughter. It is the third time he has campaigned in a plane so christened.

The journalists accompanying him on his first tour, a nine-day, eight-state swing, flew in another jet called Kimberly in honor of the Vice President's 16-year-old daughter.

Before he left Washington, Mr. Agnew said that he did not intend to address himself during the campaign to "the internal problems" of the Democratic party. "I think the main thing people want to hear is about the President's policies."

Following that premise in his address to the International City Management Association, the Vice President merely celebrated the Republican record on international accords, the Vietnam war, the American economy and governmental reform.

"There is much in the Presidency of Richard Nixon that we take pride in," Mr. Agnew told the audience of more than 1,300.

The Vice President also seemed to enjoy his first street corner handshaking today. As he approached the Radisson Hotel in downtown Minneapolis, the scene of the speech and the later news conference, he and Mrs. Agnew left the limousine and walked in a large, noisy crowd, talking both with supporters and hecklers.

Although the preponderance of those who came to see him seemed enthusiastic about his candidacy, there was a sprinkling of anti-Agnew signs and a few boos as he made his way down the lines of people and finally disappeared into the hotel.

At the news conference, the

Vice President touched on a variety of subjects, including the war in Vietnam, the Administration's position on taxes and the Middle East. In his discussion of all of them he seemed relaxed, confident and extremely cordial to the battery of reporters and photographers.

The conference was staged in the Gold Room of the Radisson Hotel and the Vice President sat in a black leather office chair on a low, green-draped stage before a pale blue curtain. On his right hand, a water pitcher and glasses rested on a small table, and a tiny microphone was clipped to his tie.

Some staff members suggested that some of the Vice President's comments might be included later in television advertisements on behalf of the Republican campaign.