

Call for Dialogue

Agnew's Soft Talk to Press

Woodlawn, Md.

Vice President Spiro Agnew, whose role in developing administration policy has been expanded by President Nixon, called last night for an end to the "unfortunate hostility" between the news media and the White House.

Agnew, speaking to the Maryland Press Club, which named him "Man of the Year," said he did not apologize for his criticism of the media in the past but conceded that "it could have been stated less abrasively."

"My speeches this year . . . have intentionally adopted a different tone and one that has been much better received by those who do not agree with my conclusions," he said.

"In candor, I cannot gloss over the unfortunate hostility that has existed for too long between the media and the Nixon administration. To say that there is fault on the part of the Administration

would probably be described by many in this room as the understatement of the week," he said.

"But there is also some blame properly assessable to some individuals in the media," he said.

"When I say 'unfortunate hostility' I mean deep feelings that run beyond the traditional adversary relationship between Government officeholders and members of the press," he said.

"There is unquestionably wrong and right on both sides of this controversy. It is of immense importance to the American public that information flow creditably and freely to them.

"The Government and the media must put aside their visceral reactions and engage in a productive, intelligent discussion of their differences," he said.

He said the Nixon administration is willing to participate in such a discussion.

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