

JUN 29 1973

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WXPost Agnew Praises Watergate Hearings

MIAMI BEACH June 28 (UPI)—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew cited the Watergate hearings today as evidence that "our society is more open than ever—fiercely resistant to any encroachment upon the rule of law or the scope of liberty."

Agnew did not amplify on his remark contained in a speech prepared for the annual convention of Lions International.

But he used Watergate as an example of what he called the development of "open societies" both in the United States and in the Soviet Union and China rather than the dictatorial societies

envisioned in George Orwell's novel "1984."

"All the signs point to the emergence of more open societies living and working together harmoniously in a more open world—exactly the opposite of the supposed closed world of 1984," he said.

~~States, of course, you need~~

"Here in the United States, of course, you need look no farther than the Watergate hearings which are dominating each day's news for evidence that our society is more open than ever—fiercely resistant to any encroachment upon the

rule of law or the scope of liberty."

Agnew also deplored efforts in Congress to compel President Nixon to stop all bombing of Cambodia or to unilaterally order U.S. disarmament.

Of Mr. Nixon's veto of an appropriations bill which carried a bombing halt rider, Agnew said: "The President believes that he must have the authority to continue bombing in Cambodia in order to achieve a negotiated settlement there and send the North Vietnamese troops packing, just as they're required to do under the Paris agreement.

We're very close to peace now, and it would be an immense tragedy if we let the Paris accords become unraveled over the Cambodian issue."

He said the summit agreements between President Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev "merely cleared the way for the really tough bargaining to begin" on disarmament.

"You can't horse-trade if all you're holding is a bridle," Agnew told the convention, "which is why this country must now hang tough on our defense budget despite all the temptations for unilateral cutbacks."

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