

# Agnew Mellow in Talk Hailing Confederate Heroes

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STONE MOUNTAIN, Ga., May 9—Honoring the heroes of the Confederacy but quoting Woodrow Wilson, Vice President Agnew came to Georgia today to dedicate the granite carvings of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis.

Unlike his previous political forays into the South, the tone of the speech delivered today by Mr. Agnew, who was substituting for President Nixon, was subdued and nonpartisan. He called for unity in the nation and an end to sectionalism, an issue the Nixon Administration has been accused of reviving for political gain in the South.

Last night in Boise, Idaho, the Vice President delivered a speech that was also relatively subdued. Departing from a hard-line prepared text, Mr. Agnew had said that he wanted "in some small way" to help cool the temper of the nation.

## The American Dream

It was not clear whether the Georgia speech was the same one written for the President before the crisis in Cambodia and student unrest at home forced Mr. Nixon to cancel his Georgia visit.

"The South that will make its greatest contribution to the American Dream is the new South," the Vice President said.

"This new South rejects the old grievances and the old political appeals to the worst in all. The new South embraces the future, and presses forward with a robust economy fueled by industrial development."

"We must set aside the evils of sectionalism," he told a crowd of about 10,000 persons. "Just as the South cannot afford to discriminate against any of its own people, the rest of the nation cannot afford to discriminate against the South."

He quoted President Wilson, who was Virginia-born and Georgia-reared, but who later came to embody many of the qualities of the intellectual liberal establishment of the North that Mr. Agnew has so often attacked in his speeches. The Vice President said:

"I bid you turn with me your face to the future, quickened by the memories of the past, but with nothing to do with the contests of the past, knowing, as we have shed our blood upon opposite sides, we now face and admire one another."



Associated Press

## Vice President Agnew delivers dedication address for the Confederate Memorial carving

President Wilson had made the remarks half a century ago at the dedication of a monument to Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

Stone Mountain is a massive oval outcropping of granite—seven miles around at the base and covering about 1,000 acres—that looks like a great gray whale breaking the surface of the Georgia countryside. It is about 15 miles east of Atlanta.

It was on the rounded summit of the mountain on Nov. 9, 1915, that the Ku Klux Klan was reborn. A Jew, Leo Frank, was accused in Atlanta of the rape-murder of a white girl. Mr. Frank was lynched by Klansmen in a crime that shocked the nation and led to the formation of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

## Symbol of Resistance

The mountain continued to be used as a rallying point for the Klan in subsequent years and its granite bulk became a popular symbol of white resistance.

James R. Venable, a 65-year-old Georgia lawyer whose family purchased Stone Mountain in 1879 from a granite company,

who was the president of the

Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, who later began the Mount Rushmore carvings in South Dakota, was commissioned in 1923 and, by the following year, he had completed the head and shoulders of General Lee. The memorial was later taken over by Augustus Lukeman. But funds ran out and the solitary gray head of the Confederate general—and part of his horse—remained untouched for 36 years until the State of Georgia purchased the mountain from the Venable family for \$1-million. Work was resumed as part of plans for a state park and memorial.

Mr. Venable, who said he is the Imperial Wizard of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, started a furor this week when he protested the appearance of a black Baptist minister, Dr. William Holmes Borders of Atlanta, on today's dedication program.

He said it was an "offense" to the memory of General Lee, General Jackson and Mr. Davis,

Confederacy, to have a Negro at the event.

Referring to Dr. Borders, Mr. Venable said: "The war was fought over the question of slavery and it is improper for a member of his race to take part in the program."

But Mr. Venable said he had no objection to the invitation of a Republican, Mr. Agnew, to deliver the main dedication talk.

"The Vice President is even a better man suited for this occasion than the President," Mr. Venable remarked in a telephone interview. "I share his views on college students and professors running amok and all that communistic, socialistic stuff."

Mr. Venable said he was boycotting the ceremony today because of the presence of a Negro and because he believed that the sculpture, which spans an area 303 feet in length and 190 feet in height, had been incorrectly carved.

"They used flame torches and that'll cause the surface to peel and crack," he said. After about a quarter of a century, he added, he expected the monument to the Confederacy to fade away and crumble into dust.