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Asserts Administration Has Brought Western Alliance to 'Brink of Destruction'

By CLAYTON KNOWLES

Mayor Wagner made a blistering attack yesterday on what he called the Administration's "double-dealing" in the Middle East.

The Democratic Senatorial candidate singled out Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as the man who had brought the Western alliance to the "brink of destruction." But he was equally harsh with President Eisenhower, saying the President had failed to "take the American people into his confidence" in discussing the crisis.

The Mayor said the President's address to the nation Wednesday evening not only ignored the origins and causes of the crisis, but failed to develop any program to resolve it.

"Certainly there is no solution," Mr. Wagner said, "in taking again to the United Nations the same expression of State Department inflexible self-righteousness which has already been turned down by the very allies—or former allies—whom we must seek to persuade rather than command."

"There was no hint in anything the President said that his Administration shared any of the responsibility for the current situation," the candidate contended.

Yet Mr. Wagner maintained that "those in charge of our foreign affairs consented to the furnishing of arms to [President] Nasser [of Egypt] by the Communists; voiced no whisper of protest when Suez was closed to Israel as only one part of a gigantic economic blockade, and stood irresolutely by even when the Suez crisis extended to Britain and France."

"Until the eleventh hour, our policy relied upon appeasement, rather than principle," he said, "and now, in the thirteenth hour, we find ourselves fundamentally on the wrong side."

While the Mayor pulled no punches, his speech at the Overseas Press Club, 35 East Thirty-ninth Street, was more notable for its timing and tone than for its specific content. The issue in the Middle East is one, Democrats believe, that could win the Senatorial contest for them and possibly New York's forty-five electoral votes for the Presidency as well.

The speech at the Overseas Press Club came after the Mayor had voiced sharp criticism of the President's Middle East statement over National Broadcasting Company radio and television outlets.

The Mayor carried the theme of this talk, which he gave at a luncheon meeting attended by 175, into later speeches in a busy day of campaigning.

On the affirmative side, the Mayor set forth a program of "essential first steps" for restoring the country's free world leadership. The highlights were:

¶Getting "back on the side of the free countries" in a way that "the totalitarians must know it."

¶Re-establishing a working relationship with other great Western democracies, free of attempts to "outmaneuver them by political speeches before American audiences."

¶Vindicating the United States pledge "to help maintain national boundaries in the Middle East, free of perpetual sniping."

¶Seeking resettlement of Arab refugees, free access for all to the Suez Canal and economic and technical assistance to combat poverty and scarcities.

¶Looking "at the whole world situation" before fixing policy in any area.

¶Being "true to our own best traditions and not watering them down" in seeking friends among the neutral nations and the respect of the totalitarian states.

He appeared earlier at two fund-raising cocktail parties. Three hundred theatrical and publishing figures at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel heard him promise, if elected, to work for a National Commission of Arts. Another 250 supporters greeted him at the Delmonico Hotel at a party held by Independent Citizens for Wagner.

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