Ed Creagh, “Nixon Seemed More Concerned over Sputnik Than President,”
Associated Press, October 17, 1957

IN SOME WAYS, THAT IS.

Nixon Seems More Concerned Over Sputnik Than President

By ED CREAM
Associated Press News Analyst

WASHINGTON (AP) — In some ways Vice President Nixon seems more concerned over Sputnik than President Eisenhower. Portions of a speech Nixon made in San Francisco last night could even be construed as second-guessing President Eisenhower, not that Nixon would ever do such a thing on purpose.

What Nixon did do is warn against complacency and brushing off the Soviet satellite as a mere scientific stunt.

Complacency is just what Eisenhower has been accused of by many critics. He didn’t, as former Secretary of Defense Wilson did, call Sputnik “a nice scientific trick.” He said it proves the Russians have a mighty powerful rocket.

But he also said last week that “(A) while he wishes we knew more about missiles he is not dissatisfied” with U.S. progress to date, and “(B) he has given the scientists all the money they asked for and doesn’t know what more he can do.

Nixon’s words have a different ring: “If the free world is to survive we cannot rest on our past achievements or our present position of military superiority. We must constantly push forward on all fronts.”

SEEKING DIFFERENCE

There’s a seeming difference, too, in the two men’s evaluation of Sputnik as a propaganda weapon.

Eisenhower said last week he had been advised long ago that the Soviets would gain a political or psychological advantage if their