

Probe Perils Free Press, CBS Warns

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 (AP)

—Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, today labeled as "immensely dangerous" a Federal Communications Commission inquiry into his network's coverage of disorder in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention.

Citing First Amendment guarantees of freedom of the press, Salant said the FCC letter which questioned the network's coverage "may well be the most troublesome threat to our role as part of the free press that has yet been devised."

"Are news judgments to be made finally by some agency of the government?" Salant asked at a convention of CBS radio affiliates.

Salant disputed contentions that his network made "no mention of provocations by the disorders in downtown Chicago during the convention."

He produced five recordings in which network correspondents, reporting the confrontations, made specific mention of provocation by demonstrators.

The correspondents reported that rocks, bottles and cherry bombs were thrown at police, and that one policeman was "severely injured in the head."

Salant suggested that the uproar over convention coverage stemmed from a reluctance on the part of the public "to see or hear what actually was done."