

# Agnew Sees a Trend To News Monopolies

11/21/69

By Bruce Galphin  
Washington Post Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 20—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew tonight criticized The Washington Post Co. as an example of a trend toward monopolization and questioned the news judgment of The New York Times.

One week after he sharply criticized television network journalism, the vice president broadened his attack to include some of the print media, saying it was his duty to "stand up and speak out for the values" in which he believed.

He specifically cited The Washington Post, Newsweek and The New York Times in a

speech here before a standing room only convention of the Alabama Chamber of Commerce.

"... The American people should be made aware," he said, "of the trend toward the monopolization of the great public information vehicles and the concentration of power over public opinion in fewer and fewer hands."

He said it was "nonsense" to say he was trying to stifle dissent. "It is my right, and my duty to stand up and speak out for the values in which I believe."

See AGNEW, A7, Col. 1

Text of speech. Page A6.

## AGNEW, From A1

"How can you ask the man in the street in this country to stand up for what he believes if his own elected leaders weasel and cringe?"

"It is not an easy thing to wake up each morning to learn that some prominent man or institution has implied that you are a bigot, a racist or a fool.

"I am not asking any immunity from criticism. That is the lot of the man in politics; we would have it no other way in this democratic society.

"But my political and journalistic adversaries sometimes seem to be asking something more—that I circumscribe my rhetorical freedom, while they place no restrictions on theirs."

Agnew's criticism of The Washington Post concerned

the company's ownership of various news outlets. He said:

"... A single company, in the nation's capital, holds control of the largest newspaper in Washington, D.C., and one of the four major television stations, and an all-news radio station, and one of the three major national news magazines—all grinding out the same editorial line..."

"For the purpose of clarity, before my thoughts are obliterated in the smoking typewriters of my friends in Washington and New York, let me emphasize I am not recommending the dismemberment of The Washington Post Company. I am merely pointing out that the public should be

aware that these four powerful voices hearken to the same master."

### Gives Example

In his criticism of The New York Times, Agnew said that other newspapers, including The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun, had carried reports that 300 congressmen and 59 senators signed a letter backing President Nixon's Vietnam policy, "yet the next morning The New York Times, which considers itself America's paper of record, did not carry a word. Why?"

Agnew said a trend toward fewer newspapers in this country had stilled "many strong independent voices... lack-

ing the vigor of competition, some of those that have survived have, let us face it, grown fat and irresponsible."

But the Vice President said he was opposed to any kind of news censorship. "I am opposed to censorship of television or the press in any form. I don't care whether censorship is imposed by government or whether it results from management in the choice and the presentation of the news by a little fraternity having similar social and political views. I am against censorship in all forms," he said.

In his speech to the Alabama businessmen, Agnew also criticized the "arrogant few" students who "intimidate

and harass university professors, who use gutter obscenities to shout down speakers with whom they disagree," and who advocate use of violence.

He also took a jab at former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who he said had been hurt by television coverage of last year's Democratic convention in Chicago, but who now is joining in the criticism of Agnew for his remarks about TV journalism. "America already has too many politicians who would rather switch than fight," Agnew said.

This was the vice president's third major address in the South in the past two months. The three speeches—

in Jackson, Miss., New Orleans, La., and Montgomery—have been in states carried last year by George Wallace's American Independent Party.

In New Orleans last month Agnew labeled Vietnam war protesters "impudent snobs."

The vice president was the guest here of Postmaster General Winton Blount, a Montgomery contractor before he went into government. Agnew was introduced at the dinner by Gov. Albert P. Brewer, a Democrat.

#### *Young Voters to Shift*

#### *To Center, Agnew Says*

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (UPI) Vice President Agnew said

today that he expects the majority of voters under 30 years of age to swing away from the left and more to the center in their political views in the 1970s.

In an article on the next decade written for Women's Wear Daily, Agnew said the average American can expect more change, but perhaps not as cataclysmic as in the 1960s. He said the failures of the past decade were the result of failure to comprehend and guide change.

"In the '70s, the post-World War II babies come of age," he wrote. "These young adults will create changes in our voting structure; our morality;

our way of looking at life. We need not agree with them. But if we are not to follow them, we must lead them in directions that are acceptable to all Americans."

Agnew predicted that there would be "heightened reliance on state and local governments" in the 1970s and a move toward regional government. He said he also foresaw "diminishing tensions" in the racial field during the period, but was less optimistic over the reduction of campus rebellions.

"Our institutions of higher education and the contemporaries of the radicals are going to have to get tough," he said.