

Most Callers Supported Agnew Blast at Press

other.
"Vice President Agnew's remarks are the very reason we cancelled our subscription to The Post three years ago," Mr. and Mrs. John D. Helm of Hyattsville wired the newspaper.

"You guys are in trouble," said H. H. Test, of Bethesda.

A Northern Virginia resident commented: "I respect Agnew for having the guts to speak out on the communications crisis. You newspaper and television stations do have an obligation to the public—much more than you can imagine."

On the other side, a Maryland couple said they had wired the vice president: "As long-time Republicans, we voted for you for governor and for vice president. We are sorry about that now. Today our votes go to The Washington Post for truthful, fearless and unbiased reporting."

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.) reacted by suggesting that a "first-class inquiry" should be made into the press. In a Senate speech, Dodd accused The New York Times of using its power to overthrow foreign governments friendly to the United States.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) followed Dodd on the floor with the remark that "the radio, television, news magazines and newspapers have, on the whole, done a very competent and fair job."

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's latest bout with the media produced for him a 3-to-2 victory over The Washington Post, but a narrow defeat at The New York Times.

That at least was the tally of telephone callers who responded to the vice president's latest speech by phoning the two newspapers Thursday night and yesterday to voice their feelings.

In a Montgomery, Ala., speech Thursday night, Agnew criticized The Washington Post and The New York Times. The Washington Post Company, he noted, controls not only the newspaper, but WTOP-TV and radio, and Newsweek magazine. The news judgment of the New York Times, he suggested, coincides with its editorial opposition to Vietnam war policy.

The response to his Thursday speech was not as heavy as a week ago when the vice president blasted the three television networks in a Des Moines, Iowa, speech, but hundreds called the two newspapers to register their reaction.

At The Washington Post, which received more than 500 calls, 332 said they agreed with Agnew and 206 defended the newspaper. The New York Times reported that, by late afternoon, 198 callers had endorsed the newspaper while 179 spoke up for Agnew.

The response at WTOP included more than 1,200 calls which split approximately half and half, the station reported. At the vice president's office, the staff did not keep a tally of phone calls but reported that 670 telegrams had come in supporting Agnew compared to only 48 defending the two newspapers.

The callers who contacted The Washington Post used strong language to express agreement with the vice president. "A mockery to journalistic integrity," said one. "Tentacles of an octopus," said an-