

# Agnew Suggests a TV Quiz Of Newsmen by Politicians

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CHICAGO, Oct. 20—A television panel show in reverse — with public figures probing the political views of commentators — was suggested today by Vice President Agnew.

A constant critic of television news analysis himself, Agnew said that the opinions and possible prejudices of the commentators ought to be known to the viewing public.

For examples, he mentioned Eric Sevareid of CBS and Howard K. Smith of ABC. "Don't you think it would be beneficial for the viewing audience to know what they believe, so that when they characterize certain things, that there be some understanding of what their underlying philosophy is?" he asked.

He suggested that panels composed of senators, House members, or governors examine the personal views of the analysts. Asked if he might like to be one of the questioners, Agnew said, "After November I'd be glad to do it. I'll be pretty busy until then."

The Vice President offered his suggestions in a television talk show here this morning when he was interviewed by Irv Kupcinet, the local moderator, and Charles Roberts, contributing editor of Newsweek magazine.

Agnew had mentioned the idea in an earlier interview but today he indicated he has given it serious thought and would like to see it tried by the networks. An aide said later that the concept of quizzing commentators on their political views "is all part of getting them down into the arena."

The idea was first presented to the Vice President in a letter from an assistant professor at some university. The professor will not be publicly identified at this time, aides said.

Agnew on many occasions has criticized television analysts who give their views of President Nixon's speeches as soon as the President is off the air. In the course of his political campaigning this fall, he also has urged that more identifiably conservative analysts have access to television.

The Vice President emphasized that such interviews of the commentators should not be on government-sponsored shows and should not be done by a committee of government officials.

When Roberts, one of the interviewers, asked if he thought the quizzings would turn up anyone with "subversive connections," Agnew promptly replied:

"Boy, you fellows can really jump over 13 hurdles when you get on this subject. All I'm talking about is that the people who are watching that tube have a right to know what your opinions are, if you happen to be a man who is telling the news every night because you can select what

parts of the news you want to emphasize and by your language you can convey a point of view that is not an editorial and yet is colored by your own viewpoints.

"Now, I think the people ought to know what those viewpoints are. That's all I'm saying."