

Agnew Hits Critics' *Part 1/2/71,* Paranoia

Reuter

NASSAU, Bahamas, June 1—Vice President Agnew today accused critics of his attacks on the news media of creating a wave of paranoia about government threats to freedom of the press.

Speaking to radio station owners affiliated with the Mutual Broadcasting System, Agnew also renewed his charges of slanted coverage of news by television and newspapers but handed out praise to radio.

In his prepared remarks, Agnew noted recent speeches by television network executives, politicians and others accusing the administration of threatening the freedom of the press or attempting through control.

He said he only wants the media to tell the news "like it is"—not the way the administration wants it told.

"What we have done . . . is to call on the free press of this country . . . to police itself against excesses that on occasion have been so blatant they have undermined the confidence of the public in the credibility of the news media as well as the credibility of the government," Agnew said.

He drew attention to the television industry's Emmy award for the Columbia Broadcasting System's documentary "Selling of the Pentagon," a program he previously criticized as inaccurate.

"The industry rallied around and voted its highest honor to that program whose principal merit, by the standard of many in the profession, was that it had been criticized by government officials," he declared.