

2 NEWSMEN BACK AGNEW'S ATTACKS

Tell Panel His Criticisms
Are Sometimes Justified

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13 (AP) — Two Nebraska newspaper executives said today that Vice President Agnew has sometimes been right in his attacks on the press.

They called on the nation's media to strive for responsibility with less complaint about Government criticism.

Harold W. Andersen, president of the Omaha World-Herald, said in testimony prepared for a Senate Judiciary subcommittee investigating freedom of the press that some of Mr. Agnew's criticism of the media "has been justified."

Mr. Andersen said he did not understand "the almost hysterical reaction to those criticisms in some quarters."

"So far as I know, Mr. Agnew hasn't dismantled a single TV network or cost a single TV commentator his job," Mr. Andersen told the subcommittee, which is headed by Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., Democrat of North Carolina.

Benefits Seen in Criticism

Mr. Andersen and Emil W. Reutzel Jr., editor of the Norfolk (Neb.) Daily News, said there are benefits to be had from government criticism of the press. But they agreed that

the press should be free to correct itself.

The problem is to work at self-correction "and not try to outline new rules which seek to attain an ideal relationship between the press and the Government that cannot exist and should not," Mr. Reutzel said.

He said he subscribed to some of Mr. Agnew's criticism of the media. Government officials have the duty "occasionally to criticize this performance, just as readers ought to," he said, and the press should not shout "repression" in such cases.

Delay on Bill Urged

Mr. Andersen of Omaha said he opposed Government attempts to subpoena newsmen's unused notes, but he urged Congress to defer action on a bill that would outlaw the practice. He said Congress should wait until the Supreme Court acted on three subpoena cases now before it.

The newspaper executive also rejected the belief, expressed by some previous witnesses before Senator Ervin's panel, that the Nixon Administration was attempting to intimidate the press. He called such assertions "hogwash."

A news medium that could be intimidated by the Vice President, Mr. Andersen said, "was a pretty timid news medium to begin with and doesn't merit much sympathy, in my opinion."