

Post Co. Calls Agnew Blast Unwarranted

Katharine Graham, president of The Washington Post Co., issued the following statement on Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's speech:

Vice President Agnew's remarks about The Washington Post Company are not supported by the facts.

The Washington Post, Newsweek, WTOP-TV and WTOP Radio decidedly do not "grind out the same editorial line." It is a longstanding policy of The Post Company to enlist in each of its enterprises the best professional journalists we can find and to give them a maximum of freedom in which to work. Each branch is operated autonomously. They compete vigorously with one another. They disagree on many issues. We think that the result is journalism of a high caliber that is notable for a diversity of voices on a wide range of public issues.

As to the voices of public opinion in the Washington community at large, they are plentiful and diverse. It is one of the most competitive communications cities in America by any objective standard. Washington is one of only three cities left with three major newspapers under separate ownership, all of them first-rate. In addition to the four major television stations, there are three UHF stations, including one of the nation's leading educational stations. Radio is even more competitive in the area, with some 35 outlets.