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The New Orleans States-Item is an afternoon newspaper. It prints the news impartially. It supports what it believes to be right. It opposes what it believes to be wrong, without regard to party politics.

Agnew Unloads Again

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew uncovered another of his great conspiracies against the masses.

It seems that a tiny concentration of television commentators is telling the American people what to think—especially what to think about President Richard M. Nixon.

Again, Mr. Agnew has picked up the cudgel of demagoguery in an effort to still criticism of the Nixon administration.

In one of his patented "give 'em hell" speeches to a receptive audience of Iowa Republicans Thursday, Mr. Agnew urged the "silent majority" to vent their prejudices this time against the television networks.

Mr. Agnew has already set the dogs on those who would express their feelings about the war in Vietnam.

In New Orleans recently, he referred to leaders of the Oct. 15 Vietnam War Moratorium as an "effete corps of impudent snobs."

No body likes a snob, especially an impudent snob, right?

Mr. Agnew seems to have one-dimensional vision. He lumps together those with a sincere belief that they should protest with rabble that may have ulterior motives. By

the same token, he lumps together the bad and the good of television.

We agree with Dr. Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, that the latest Agnew speech was "an unprecedented attempt by the Vice President of the United States to intimidate a news medium which depends for its existence upon government licenses."

Television is an extremely sensitive medium. There no doubt has been bias in the past and those who act as commentators should constantly re-examine their stance. They should not represent a "third party" between the electorate and the president. The networks should take criticism to heart.

We believe that the timing of Mr. Agnew's remarks is extremely important in assessing their worth. They were made, after all, on the eve of a second Vietnam War demonstration. It is a demonstration that Mr. Agnew and the Nixon administration do not relish.

Mr. Agnew no doubt wanted his words to ring in the ears of television executives and commentators as they planned and carried out the coverage of this second demonstration.