

Networks Ordered To Reply

FP not 9-14-68

FCC Bombarded By TV Complaints

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Communications Commission reported Friday “hundreds of complaints concerning the television coverage” of events in Chicago during the Democratic National Convention.

It asked the three major networks to examine the various complaints applying to them and to comment within 20 days.

The complaints received “basically allege that the television coverage did not fairly present the issues on a number of grounds,” the commission said in letters to the ABC, NBC and CBS networks.

For example, it said, they allege “failure to give exposure to the views or statements of city government officials of Chicago with respect to alleged ‘brutality’ by the police, and bias in favor of views or opinions in opposition to the policies of the national government with respect to the war in Vietnam.”

The volume of material, however, makes it “difficult to make an explicit statement of summarization,” the agency said. It added that the entire file of complaints pertaining to each network would be available for examination.