

Jessel Brouhaha

Target of Probe

Chairman Harley O. Staggers (D-W. Va.) of the House Commerce Committee was asked by a Republican congressman yesterday to investigate comedian George Jessel's removal from the NBC-TV "Today" show last Friday.

An interview with Jessel was cut short after he made derogatory remarks about The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Six-term Rep. William H. Harsha (R-Ohio) said "freedom of expression . . . has once again been abridged" and such "tacit censorship . . . cannot be tolerated on public air waves."

Staggers tried unsuccessfully last month to have CBS-TV President Frank Stanton cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to provide unused film from the program, "The Selling of the Pentagon." *Post 8/5/71*