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BIAS CHARGED**Network TV News Is Rapped by Agnew**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, asserting that public opinion is being molded by selective or biased news telecasts, says the time may have come for the networks to be "made more responsive to the views of the nation."

In a speech to a Midwest regional Republican committee, the vice president declared last night that power over television news is concentrated "in the hands of a tiny and closed fraternity of men."

Agnew emphasized he is not suggesting any kind of government censorship. And he said the networks have made important contributions to national knowledge. He added they often have used their power constructively and creatively to "awaken the public conscience to critical problems."

BUT HE said an unfair news presentation can raise widespread doubts about the veracity of a public official or the wisdom of a government policy and urged viewers to "let the networks know that they want their news straight and objective."

Agnew was immediately challenged by some network and other TV spokesmen who charged him with an attempt to cow the television industry into more favorable treatment of the federal government.

Dr. Frank Stanton, president of CBS—which along with the other major networks carried the speech live—called it an "unprecedented attempt by the vice president of the United States to intimidate a news medium which depends for its existence upon government licenses."

Julian Goodman, president of NBC, said it was "an appeal to prejudice" in which Agnew "uses the influence of his high office to criticize the way a government-licensed news medium covers the activities of government itself."

LEONARD H. GOLDENSON, president of ABC, said he feels "the performance of ABC news has always been and will continue to be fair and objective." He expressed confidence in "the ultimate judgment of the American public."

A spokesman for the Mutual Radio network "heartily endorsed" the speech as a "call for fairness, balance, responsi-

bility and accuracy in news presentation."

Networks and affiliated stations reported many telephone calls in response to Agnew's suggestion of public protest against TV news handling. The count of caller views ranged from 231 in favor of Agnew and two against him at WBAP-TV, the NBC affiliate in Ft. Worth, Tex., to 614 favorable and 554 against at NBC in New York.

Agnew told his Republican audience an example of the kind of TV news handling he had in mind was the networks' comment immediately after President Nixon's Vietnam speech Nov. 3.

THE VICE PRESIDENT said "obvious" that commentators had their minds made up in advance.

In his speech Agnew said, "Every American has a right to disagree with the President of the United States and to express publicly that disagreement."

But, he added, the people "have a right to make up their own minds and form their own opinions about a presidential address without having the President's words and thoughts characterized through the prejudices of hostile critics before they can even be digested."

After stating he does not suggest government censorship of TV news, Agnew said, "I am asking whether a form of censorship already exists."

HE SAID, "The news that 40 million Americans receive each night is determined by a handful of men responsible only to their corporate employers and filtered through a handful of men who admit to their own set of biases."

"A raised eyebrow, an inflection of voice, a caustic remark dropped in the middle of a broadcast can raise doubts in a million minds about the veracity of a public official or the wisdom of a government policy" Agnew said.

Agnew suggested that viewers "register their complaints on bias through mail to the networks and phone calls to local stations."

The chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Dean Burch, today strongly endorsed Agnew's criticism of commentaries on Nixon's Vietnam policy speech.