

AGNEW ATTACKS PRESS AS UNFAIR; NAMES 2 PAPERS

Cites New York Times and
The Washington Post in
Scoring 'Monopolization'

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The texts of Agnew's speech
and replies, Page 22.

By CHRISTOPHER LYDON

Special to The New York Times

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 20 — Vice President Agnew broadened his attack on the communications media tonight to include newspapers, particularly The New York Times and The Washington Post.

A week after he accused the three national television networks of abusing their power over public opinion, the Vice President challenged the news judgment and the fairness of the press.

Where he had previously addressed himself to "a small band of network commentators," he spoke this time, without reference to personalities, of the diminishing choice of newspapers and the growing concentration of corporate media control.

More Power, Fewer Hands

"The American people should be made aware," he said, "of the trend toward the monopolization of the great public information vehicles and the concentration of more and more power over public opinion in fewer and fewer hands."

"Many, many strong independent voices have been stilled in this country in recent years," he said, speaking of defunct papers. "Lacking the vigor of competition, some of those that have survived have —let us face it—grown fat and irresponsible."

He spoke specifically of the decline of newspaper competition in Washington and New York.

"When The Washington Times-Herald died in the nation's capital, that was a political tragedy," he said. "And when The New York Journal American, The New York World-Telegram and Sun, The New York Mirror and The New York Herald Tribune all collapsed within this decade, that was a great, great political tragedy for the people of New York."

"The New York Times," he said, "was a better newspaper when they were alive than it is now that they are gone."

[In New York, Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, president and publisher of The New York Times, said that Mr. Agnew was inaccurate in some of his statements. Mrs. Katharine Graham, president of The Washington Post Company, said that the Vice President's remarks about the company were not supported by the facts.]

The Vice President delivered his address before the Alabama Chamber of Commerce in the State Capitol where former Gov. George C. Wallace often attacked The Times and The Post as symbols of "Eastern establishment" thinking.

The two daily newspapers here, The Montgomery Advertiser and The Alabama Journal

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are owned by Multimedia, Inc., a conglomerate communications corporation, but maintain separate and competing news staffs. Both papers subscribe to The New York Times News Service.

Mr. Agnew concluded his speech with a quote from the 19th century abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, using it as an indication of his determination to be the aggressive spokesman for the Nixon Administration.

"I am in earnest," he quoted Garrison. "I will not equivocate. I will not excuse. I will not retreat a single inch. And I will be heard."

The Vice President stated, as the Administration has repeatedly affirmed in the last week, that he is, "opposed to censor-

ship of television or the press in any form."

Against Censorship

He added:

"I don't care whether censorship is imposed by Government or whether it results from management in the choice and presentation of the news by a little fraternity having similar social and political views. I am against censorship in all forms."

As an example of "the growing monopolization of the voices of public opinion," he cited The Washington Post Company, which publishes The Post and Newsweek magazine and owns the WTOP radio and television station in Washington.

"I am not recommending the dismemberment of the Washington Post Company," he said. "I am merely pointing out that the public should be aware that these four powerful voices hark-

His speech included three criticisms of news coverage and editorials in The New York Times.

First, he charged that The Times, which he said "considers itself America's paper of record," did not carry "a word" about the endorsement of President Nixon's Vietnam policy by 300 Congressmen and 59 Senators.

"If a theology student in Iowa should get up at a P.T.A. luncheon in Sioux City and attack the President's Vietnam policy, my guess is that you would probably find it reported somewhere the next morning in The New York Times," he said.

"But when 300 Congressmen endorse the President's Vietnam policy, the next morning it is apparently not considered news fit to print."

Another Complaint

Second, he complained that last Tuesday, when Pope Paul

VI "endorsed" the way President Nixon was proceeding in Vietnam, The Times reported the news on page 11.

"But the same day," he commented, a "report about some burglars who broke into a souvenir shop in St. Peter's and stole \$9,000 worth of stamps and currency—that story made Page 3. How's that for news judgment?"

Third, he quoted a recent Times editorial, written in response to his remarks about young demonstrators that "American youth today is far more imbued with idealism, a sense of service, and a deep humanitarianism than any generation in recent history, including particularly Mr. Ag-

The editorial, he said, "seems a particular slur on a generation that brought America out of the great Depression without resorting to the extremes

of either Fascism or Communism.

"Whatever freedom exists today in Western Europe and Japan," he continued, "exists because hundreds of thousands of young men in my generation are lying in graves in North Africa and France and Korea and a score of islands in the Western Pacific.

"This might not be considered enough of a 'sense of service' or a 'deep humanitarianism' for the 'perceptive critics' who write editorials for The New York Times, but it's good enough for me and I'm content to let history be the judge."

The Vice President insisted that he and his political supporters were not alone in their dismay at the younger generation.

He mentioned five prominent persons traditionally identified as liberals, who have seen "fanaticism 'brutality' and 'idiocy'"