

GOLDWATER CALLS TV NEWS 'BIASED'

Asserts 'Media's Attitude' Is
Threat to Press Freedom

WASHINGTON, March 12 (AP)—Senator Barry Goldwater accused segments of the television industry today of having a biased attitude, which he said was earning it disrespect from the American people.

"If the TV industry is seriously worried about the freedom of the press," Senator Goldwater said, "I suggest it look to its own performance. Because I believe the most serious threat to freedom of the press is the media's own biased attitude."

A Goldwater spokesman said the Senator was not including newspapers in his criticism.

Speech to Young Republicans

The Arizona Republican, addressing a Young Republican Leadership Training School here, said: "Liberal comments about the Nixon Administration have taken on an edge of desperation and hysteria since Vice President Agnew has begun to give voice to some of the pet peeves of the silent majority."

Senator Goldwater singled out a speech by Julian Goodman, president of the National Broadcasting Company, calling recent criticism of the news media the greatest threat to press freedom since the Sedition Act of 1798. Mr. Goodman also asked Federal and state officials to quit serving subpoenas on the news media.

Senator Goldwater termed this "one of the most ridiculous statements of the new decade."

"For a responsible industry executive to expect the American people who watch a steady stream of criticism aimed at the Republican administration on TV newscasts every day to believe a great threat exists to the freedom of the press is downright ludicrous," he added.

N.B.C. Bars Comment

N.B.C. said it had no comment on Senator Goldwater's remarks.

"I think it's time to ask just

who these TV news people are," Mr. Goldwater continued.

"If one of their employees has information or material that would be useful to grand jury or a district attorney in legal proceedings, why shouldn't he be asked to produce the items requested? Are we to take Mr. Goodman's word for the fact that the news media is above the law?" he asked.

"It does seem strange to me that all of a sudden — just since Mr. Agnew delivered his well-reasoned request for the news media to conduct an examination of its own actions — television officials should begin to see censorship 'spooks' behind every bush," he said.

Senator Goldwater attacked several leading Democrats, including Senators Edmund S. Muskie of Maine and J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas.

He challenged a recent Muskie statement on youthful dissenters, including those who go to Canada to escape the draft. Senator Muskie said: "These people are not traitors. They are patriots. They are concerned for the future of this country."

Senator Goldwater was applauded when he said: "If I had my way, their citizenships would be lifted the minute they crossed the border."

Senator Goldwater said Senator Fulbright's statements on Laos showed that the Arkansas Democrat "doesn't read the papers."

"For years we have been helping in Laos when the Laotian government needed it on the Plain of Jars," he said.

Mr. Goldwater accused Presidents Kennedy and Johnson of "some of the stupidest mistakes ever made by a President" in Vietnam. He said that "the war could have been won in a few months" if the bombing of North Vietnam had not been halted. This policy has been continued by the Nixon Administration.