

What Can Be Done About The CBS-NBC News Bias?

By ALICE WIDENER

The bias against President Nixon in television news reporting over the two major networks, CBS and NBC, grows more flagrant each day. It seems that whenever our President goes anywhere or says anything, CBS and NBC immediately follow their reports on his activities and pronouncements with a triple or quadruple barrage of adverse criticism from the CBS-NBC clique of ultra-liberal pets on Capitol Hill—Democratic Senators J. William Fulbright, Frank Church, George McGovern and Edmund Muskie.

If CBS and NBC give prime news time to Republican comment, it is awarded to ultra-liberal Senators Jacob K. Javits, Clifford Case, George D. Aiken and J. Sherman Cooper. Banned from CBS-NBC screens, evidently, are such experienced and longtime public servants as Senators Richard Russell, John L. McClellan, John G. Tower, Barry Goldwater, Karl E. Mundt, John Williams, Wallace F. Bennett, Carl T. Curtis, Roman L. Hruska and Warren G. Magnuson.

A specific example of flagrant bias on the part of NBC, warranting an FCC investigation in my opinion, occurred on the July 30 six o'clock evening news account of President Nixon's successful visit to Saigon and to American troops of the 1st Infantry Division at Dien Bien Phu, Viet Nam, where he praised our GIs' heroism and sacrifice in a difficult war as "one of America's finest hours." Immediately after televising President Nixon's remarks NBC aired the highly critical comments of anti-Nixon, ultra-liberal Democratic Senators Albert Gore, Frank Church and Edmund Muskie.

This stacked the editorial comment on a 3-to-1 basis against our President. Not a single Republican or even a less "ultra" Democrat was called on for expression of opinion about President Nixon's remarks and Viet Nam visit.

What do CBS and NBC want to do? Be even more unfair to President Nixon on the subject of Viet Nam and matters of national defense, such as the ABM issue, than they, CBS and NBC, were to President Johnson? In the political opinion of CBS and NBC, are ultra-liberals among United States senators the only ones whose opinions are worth hearing? Are they the only ones immune from the verbal stiletos of Dan Rather, Marvin Kalb, Huntley-Brinkley and Elie Abel?

Recently, neither CBS nor NBC offered the public any kind of in-depth reporting on the Ted Kennedy affair and NBC immediately rallied its own clique of ultra-liberal newscasters to comment on it. Only Channel 5 in New York City, a Metromedia station, did a thorough on-scene review of the Kennedy accident which, had it happened to any one of CBS' and NBC's pet hate targets, for example, Sen. Barry Goldwater or Sen. Strom Thurmond, would probably have been described for what it really was, a major scandal due to the Kennedy-Gargan-Markham indefensible behavior.

News reporting by the principal organs of the Eastern liberal press, the New York Times and Washington Post, though often slanted to left-of-center, is a model of objectivity when compared with news reporting by CBS and NBC. It appears they are trying to do to Richard M. Nixon what they helped do to Lyndon B. Johnson: force the President of the United States into what triumphant leftist radicals describe as "abdication."

Every American with an ounce of fairness knows that Sen. Kennedy's "mea culpa" July 1969 broadcast involving a ghost-written apologia for inexplicable abandonment to death by drowning of a young woman was in no way comparable to vice presidential candidate Nixon's "Checkers" speech in 1952 concerning allegations involving campaign fund contributions of only a few thousand dollars, a speech that entirely satisfied not only Dwight D. Eisenhower but also the public except for a few professional Nixon haters. Yet immediately after Ted Kennedy's broadcast, NBC's clique of commentators rushed into an attempted Kennedy political rescue operation by comparing the two speeches.

As things stand today, the ethical news standards of the nation's daily newspapers far surpass those of the two major broadcasting networks, whose abuse of power ought to be scrutinized by the Federal Communications Commission and by the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. If that abuse continues, it may be that nobody but a CBS-NBC ultra-liberal pet can be a successful and fairly treated President of the United States.

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