

Agnew Takes the Press to Task Again

In TV Interviews, He Says Media Are Biased and Too Powerful

By Stephen Isaacs

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Spiro T. Agnew picked up yesterday where he left off three years ago, bitterly attacking the American press as overly powerful and biased.

Agnew, who resigned the vice presidency on Oct. 10, 1973, and pleaded no contest to a federal tax evasion charge on the same day, gave two television interviews in promoting a novel he has written, titled "The Canfield Decision."

Agnew, on NBC's "Today" show, said that the power of the press had made politics almost unlivable from the inside.

"It is impossible for a person in politics to do the job he was elected to do," said Agnew, in warning young people to stay away from it as a career. "It's just open season on politicians."

Agnew yesterday added a new charge against the media to his roster of old ones, namely that the media are overly sympathetic to the cause of Israel.

Agnew talked of "Israeli imperialism" and in his novel talked of a "Jewish cabal" having too much influence in Congress.

"I do feel that the Zionist influences in the United States are dragging the U.S.

into a rather disorganized approach to the Middle East problem," said Agnew. "I feel, for example, that we don't have an even-handed policy in the Middle East.

"There's no doubt that there has been a certain amount of Israeli imperialism taking place in the world. There has been an invasion of the West Bank. The Israeli parliament is talking about settling on the Golan Heights, on the Gaza Strip . . . and I feel that because of the Zionist influences in the United States, these matters of aggression are routinely considered to be permissible."

Agnew claimed that "the media are sympathetic to the Zionist cause" and said that the "nationwide, impact media . . . have a tendency not to separate the Arabs into what you might call militant Communist-oriented Arabs and the Arabs that support free enterprise systems."

On a separate interview with Merv Griffin, to be broadcast here on WTTG (Channel 5) on Thursday evening, Agnew talked about how the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was "one of the most wonderful men I ever met in my life, was so sympathetic and helpful to me, giving me the opportunity to get into some business matters there . . ."

Agnew said he represents businesses who deal with the Arab states.



SPIRO T. AGNEW

... 'it's just open season'

The former Vice President left office after a number of Maryland businessmen said they gave him money in return for government contracts.

He resigned only after the then Attorney General, Elliot Richardson, allowed him to plead no contest to the tax charge and promised him he would not go to jail.

Agnew told Griffin that the whole episode had devastated him and his family, and that he would ultimately tell his whole side of the tale in his memoirs.

But Agnew did say that "I don't feel guilty. I had no personal benefit from any-

thing that happened . . . There was no tangible evidence that I had taken any money that I used for myself."

Agnew also said that "It's fair to say that I was positioned in a way that I had good probability of becoming the President of the United States, or at least a presidential candidate."

President Nixon, said Agnew, "was a hard man to know," and added that he has had no contact with Nixon since his resignation.

Agnew said he did not mind being a hatchet man for Nixon, saying that "I must say . . . in complete fairness that I did not reject, I was not uncomfortable with those assignments because I was saying what I really believed at that time."

Agnew said he feels the United States made a horrid mistake in abandoning Vietnam, and that Nixon was wrong in visiting China this year. Nixon, he feels, was "used" by those "assaulting our system — the capitalist system."

Agnew described to Griffin the obscure ways that a President uses to tell his Vice President not to "stray off the reservation" and goes "through 18 other directions first to try to convince him" to do things.

Agnew said a Vice President (presumably himself) rarely gets to talk alone to the President.