

# FCC Aide Assails Nixon Policy

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## Washington

Nicholas Johnson, a member of the Federal Communications Commission, said yesterday the Nixon Administration and "big television" are serving as "the handmaidens of revolutionaries" by stifling dissent.

Johnson criticized the government and the nationwide TV networks in a speech on the capitol to steps a rally of federal employees opposed to United States policy in Southeast Asia.

## CRITIC

Johnson, a Democrat and frequent critic of the broadcast industry, was appointed to the seven-member FCC by former President Johnson.

Assailing President Nixon's ordering of U.S. troops into Cambodia, Johnson said, "President Nixon had given all of us the hope that he was going to pursue a policy of continued withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam."

"His seeming reversal of that policy," he said, "with a deplorable armed invasion of yet another sovereign nation, an intensification of the bombing of North Vietnam, and verbal attacks by him and his vice president on American youth is a matter of legitimate concern to all Americans and an issue about which he is entitled to an expression of our views."

And yet, Johnson said, the Administration is hampering such expression.

By "bottling up legitimate means for communication of dissent," Johnson said, the government will "leave only the avenues of violence and despair."

## NETS

Complaining that the television networks did not provide live coverage of the huge anti-war rally in Washington last November, he said:

"When the Administration and big television band together to suppress legitimate dissent in this country: when they answer our humble petitions for redress with repeated injury — and now death: when they give the President access to television tonight because he asks for it, and refuse it to the citizenry unless they demonstrate for it; it is they who are the handmaidens of revolution in this country, and history will so record them."

*Associated Press*