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Function of the Press

To the Editor:

As a reader of The Times for nearly forty years, I find myself in complete agreement with Vice President Spiro Agnew regarding the one-sided presentation and the crusading spirit of The Times, especially in the last few years.

It appears that The Times is not interested in reporting events, but rather in presenting its interpretation of the events which reflects its political and social philosophy. I do not believe this is the function of a newspaper.

This problem of control over men's minds by an oligarchy of articulate individuals with no responsibility to anyone except to sell their wares, is one which should be examined thoroughly and resolved in such a way as to protect the public. Hiding behind the First Amendment is one of the facets that should be examined. Is it really freedom of the press or freedom for the press?

ALAN L. BENOSKY
New Hyde Park, L. I.
Nov. 23, 1969

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Mrs. Mitchell Lauded

To the Editor:

After reading your Nov. 22 article on the interview of Mrs. John Mitchell, I was heartened by her outspoken views and concur with them. It is imperative that the American people realize that the moratoriums and demonstrations are being led by a clique of street-corner agitators and professional hate-mongers.

This group's sole goal is to sow hatred and division among the American people. Their success will be the triumph of Communism and the downfall of our Republic. I am confident that this nation will not reason with treason.

MARK S. WALLACE
East Brunswick, N. J.
Nov. 22, 1969

Accord With Agnew

To the Editor:

I am in absolute accord with the statements made by the Vice President of the United States, Spiro T. Agnew, in his speeches of Nov. 13 and Nov. 20. Your sensitivity on one hand and your insensitivity on the other, conflicts with the basic traditions and principles of the news media. I think the Vice President has made his point quite well. You fail to convince me as to your objectivity in the presentation of the news.

ALBERT KLEVAN
Baltimore, Md., Nov. 21, 1969

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Mrs. Mitchell's Views

To the Editor:

It was with some dismay that I read the account in The Times of Nov. 22 of the television appearance of Mrs. John N. Mitchell. What this lady chooses to say on television would be of small consequence were it not for the fact that her husband holds a high and influential office in the Nixon Administration. So her views, one supposes, reflect his opinions. She even expressed comments which she directly attributed to him.

What is alarming to thoughtful people is the fact that a high Government official can have so little understanding of what is in the hearts and minds of a large segment of our population.

To quote from an essay by

Archibald MacLeish, but "revolutions cannot be herded from the flanks. They can only be led from the front. They cannot be resisted by a Maginot Line of conservatism."

President Nixon's expressed desire to draw people together is not well served by either Vice President Agnew's diatribes against the news media or the views expressed by Mrs. Mitchell.

MARGARET C. HEANEY
Greenwich, Conn., Nov. 23, 1969

Agnew's Attack

To the Editor:

I heartily agree with Vice President Agnew's speech and sentiments on TV news coverage. This speech on the subject is long overdue. He showed great courage in his attack for now he will be at their mercy.

I feel somewhat the same way about your fine newspaper. The Times has so many wonderful departments but some of its news coverage is definitely slanted and biased.

Advertising is so very expensive, but so much of it is given free to causes, situations and people who really don't deserve it.

ROBERT F. CARNEY
New Rochelle, N. Y.
Nov. 14, 1969

Disagrees With Agnew

To the Editor:

Please accept my vote of confidence in regard to your editorial policy. I disagree completely with Vice President Agnew's remarks.

We need frank, honest and objective reporting which media like The Times and Washington Post have been giving the American public.

Please don't be intimidated!
(Rev.) MATTHEW COSTELLO
O.S.B.

Newton, N. J., Nov. 21, 1969