

Chet Huntley's

New York

Chet Huntley, who is leaving NBC News after 14 years on the Huntley-Brinkley Report, said he believes Richard Nixon is a shallow man and the fact that he is President frightens him.

Huntley made these remarks about the President during an interview with Life magazine, carried in the current edition.

Huntley said, "I've been

around Nixon socially; I've traveled with him in his private plane; I've seen him under many conditions. The shallowness of the man overwhelms me; the fact that he is President frightens me."

AGNEW

On Vice President Spiro Agnew, Huntley said: "Spiro Agnew is appealing to the most base of elements. All the networks broke their asses putting his famous Des Moines speech on television. We almost created him, for

God's sake . . . I resent being lumped in with his Eastern Establishment intellectuals.

"I've had more cow manure on my boots than he ever thought about."

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson was Huntley's favorite Chief Executive because "he was kind to me. As insufferable as he could be, he was a gracious and funny man at ease. I never tried to argue with him. I just kept filling his glass with

Scotch and we talked about breeding Herefords. I'm going down to his ranch someday and sell him a bull."

SOURCE

On television news, Huntley said he was concerned that 55 per cent of the American people get most of their news from TV.

"These are people who, for the most part, are being confronted with news for the first time. And these are the people who form the Agnew clique."

Parting Shots

He said that "covering the astronauts" was an exercise in boredom. The networks all got trapped. Most astronauts are dull as hell, nice guys, mechanics. The only ones who had a mind of their own didn't last long."

The broadcaster, who retires August 1, plans to return to his native state of Montana where he is building a luxury resort development.

"I wanted to get these damn deadlines off my neck.

Jesus, six nights a week . . . the noise . . . the clamoring for attention . . . the divisions in our society," he said.

"When you deliver it night after night you start feeling almost responsible for it," Huntley said.

"I'm not running away from things, I'm running away to think. Maybe where there's clarity of air, there's clarity of thought," he added.

*United Press
and Reuters*