

NIXON AIDE WIDENS CRITICISM ON NEWS

Klein Says all Media Need to Re-Examine Coverage - Disclaims Any Threat

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 —

President Nixon's director of communications, Herbert G. Klein, widened the Administration's criticism of news coverage today to include all news media, not just television.

Referring to Vice President Agnew's censure of news commentators on television networks Thursday night, Mr. Klein said:

"I think you can go beyond that. All of the news media needs to re-examine itself in the format it has and its approach to problems of news, to meet the current issues of the day."

Mr. Klein, interviewed on the C.B.S. program "Face the Nation," said: "I include the newspapers very thoroughly in this, as well as the networks — if you look at the problems you have today and you fail to continue to examine them, you do invite the Government to come in. I would not like to see that happen."

Reached by telephone later, Mr. Klein said that any industry failing to examine itself "opens the door for unscrupulous politicians to move in." He

Continued on Page 18, Column 1



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Herbert G. Klein asking for re-examination of all media.

Continued From Page 1, Col. 5

said the Nixon Administration had no intention to do so and that his remarks were an observation, not a threat. He said he did not have a specific method of Government intervention in mind.

On the television program, Mr. Klein said, "I think there is a legitimate question to be debated within the industry, and I would be opposed to Government participation in it, but within the industry, as to whether we are doing a good enough job, whether we are being objective enough, and whether we ought not to spend more time in self-examination."

Mr. Klein, a former reporter and editor, said in the tele-

phone interview that this was part of a theme he had expounded at various times over the past six years.

President Agnew was speaking on his own when he criticized television news commentators Thursday, but that the Vice President's speech reflected a widely held view in the top levels of the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Klein also said that the Vice President had informed the President that he was going to make the speech and told Mr. Nixon what the subject would be.

Time magazine reported last night that the President had ordered Mr. Agnew to make the speech and had assigned Patrick Buchanan, one of the President's speech writers, to write it.

White House sources said last night that they believed that Cynthia Rosenwald, who writes speeches for Mr. Agnew, had drafted the speech and that the Vice President himself had done considerable work on it.

On the Columbia Broadcasting System program, Mr. Klein reiterated Mr. Agnew's criticism of W. Averell Harriman, who had been President Johnson's chief negotiator at the Paris peace talks.

Mr. Klein said "it was obvious that he was the first voice and the only public voice which came on immediately after the President's speech, that it would be a form of rebuttal, that if you look at any statement he made, none have been in favor of policies that the President has had."

Mr. Klein was asked to specify what military concessions the Vice President had in mind when he said Thursday that the period while Mr. Harriman was the chief negotiator in Paris was one "in which the United States swapped some of the greatest military concessions in the history of warfare for an enemy agreement on the shape of the bargaining table."

Scott Joins in Criticism

Senator Hugh Scott, the Republican leader from Pennsylvania, appeared on A.B.C.'s "Issues and Answers" with more criticism of the news media and Mr. Harriman.

Senator Scott said of Mr. Harriman that "having been Ambassador at the time when peace efforts did not work and the war was escalated, it is very important for him, as a public official, somehow to convince the public that he really was more successful than in fact he was."

The Senator said, however, that he did not know what the Vice President was talking about in his charge of swapping military concessions for the shape of the bargaining table.

"He may have referred to the suspension of the bombing, for example," Senator Scott said. "He may have referred to this rumored drawback which may or may not exist in the limitation of our offensive operations. He would have more information than I do, but I don't know what that is."

Senator Scott generally supported Mr. Agnew's criticism of television news.

"What he said was firm," the Senator said. "It opened up a dialogue, it found the television networks very defensive on the issue. There are people who say, in a rustic way, that it is the pig that is caught under the fence that squeals."

He said, however, that "I don't think the networks or the press should be responsive to anybody's views and to that degree I disagree" with the Vice President, who had called on television to reflect more accurately the views of the American public.