

Why TV

Gave Agnew Free Time

New York

The major television networks provided free speaking time to former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew last night because Agnew is a "newsworthy" figure even though he no longer holds public office.

"We think he's news," said Don Meaney, vice president of NBC News. "Just because he is no longer Vice President doesn't mean he's no longer newsworthy." Ag-

new spoke at the NBC studios.

"There is still plenty of public interest in him," said a CBS spokesman.

The spokesman added that even if Agnew had simply held a news conference, rather than requesting free time, the conference would have been covered live by the networks.

"The whole situation is highly unusual," said Meaney.

At ABC, senior vice president William Sheehan said, "We didn't give him free time, we covered a news event. NBC gave Agnew the free time, and we covered their coverage of him."

United Press