

# ZIONISM 'IN MEDIA' DECRIED BY AGNEW

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On TV for First Time Since  
Resignation, He Says U.S.  
Is Swayed on Mideast  
NYTimes

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

Former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, in his first television appearance since his resignation two and a half years ago, said yesterday that "Zionist influences" in the United States, particularly "in the media," had prevented an "even-handed policy" in the Middle East.

Mr. Agnew made his comments on the "Today" program in an appearance to promote his book "The Canfield Decision," a novel about an ambitious vice president.

His remarks about Zionist influences came in answer to a question by Barbara Walters, the program's co-host, about characters in the novel who "talk repeatedly of the Jewish cabal, of the Jewish or Zionist lobby having too much strength, too much influence in Congress."

"I do feel that the Zionist influences in the United States are dragging the U.S. into a rather disorganized approach to the Middle East problem," Mr. Agnew said.

"I do think the media are sympathetic to the Zionist cause, put it that way," he added later.

## No Talk of Resignation

Mr. Agnew declined to discuss the circumstances of his resignation when he pleaded no contest to a single count of income-tax evasion, saying that he would someday write his memoirs.

Since his resignation on Oct. 10, 1973, he has steadfastly refused to discuss his plea and has maintained that he is innocent of charges in a Justice Department document accusing him of bribery and extortion.

The television interview yesterday became somewhat testy at times as Miss Walters and her co-host, Jim Hartz, pressed Mr. Agnew to answer questions about former President Richard M. Nixon, about current Republican Presidential candidates, about whether the witnesses who had testified against Mr. Agnew had received immunity, and about the possible Vice-Presidential ambitions of former Attorney General Elliott L. Richardson.

Mr. Agnew declined to be led into any of these discussions and tried each time to get back to his novel.

Finally, Miss Walters relented and then brought up the question of sex in the book. She asked Mr. Agnew whether the fictional vice president's love affair was, in effect, autobiographical or had been included simply because the book "had to have a little sex."

## Tit For Tat

Mr. Agnew called the question "embarrassing" and told Miss Walters that if the president of the National Broadcasting Company was willing to go on the "Today" show and discuss his sex life he would do the same. Miss Walters retorted that when the president of NBC wrote a book and that dealt with sex, she would query him about it too.

Speaking about the Middle East, Mr. Agnew said that there was a "certain amount of Israeli imperialism" taking place in the world. He said that because of the "Zionist influences in the United States, these matters of aggression are routinely considered to be permissible."

He said that these influences could be found in "the nationwide, impact media" and that as a result, distinctions were not made between "militant Communist-oriented Arabs and that support free-enterprise systems."

His comments were criticized by a number of Jewish organizations that pointed out that Mr. Agnew had "reported lucrative association with Arab business interests."

Mr. Agnew is a consultant to American companies, that do business abroad. His clients are reported to have business dealings in Saudi Arabia.