

Agnew assails CBS special

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 tried to lead the crowd away from Dalton Street. However most stayed, being influenced by shouts of "Stay! Stay!" from a small band standing by the Cheri theatres on Scotia Street. Police started a slow clearing of the streets at about 7:15 pm. The police made a sudden violent foray down Scotia Street, clubbing several people and making about 15 arrests. Most of the demonstrators along Dalton Street were forced to Mass. Ave. where police again charged, clubbing and arresting several people. By 8 pm, police charges and the opening of Boylston Street to traffic had effectively dispersed all the groups.

Agnew commenced his speech by observing that "in recent years, the rules have been amended to allow Vice-Presidents to talk - so long as they are careful to say absolutely nothing. This privilege was heavily exercised and refined to a high degree during the last Administration." The VP explained that he "found it an onerous choice between the ennu of easy chair existence and pointless verbosity" and decided to say something. Media reaction to what he said in 1969 was described above and Agnew went ahead to "set the ideological Richter needles quivering all along the Manhattan-Washington fault line."

The Vice-President explained that he felt the national media thought "freedom of expression is fine so long as it stops before any question is raised or criticism lodged against national media practices or policies." Agnew continued by saying that "any extremist who dignifies our adversaries, who demeans our traditions, is sought out and spotlighted for national attention. He is interviewed as though he were representative of a large following and treated with the utmost deference as he unloads into millions of American living rooms his imprecations against society and disrespect for civilized law. Such attacks are editorially lauded as healthy demonstrations of freedom of expression in a free society."

Then, the battle with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) news organization was joined over the network's documentary entitled "The Selling of the Pentagon" as follows: "when a major television network deli-

vers a subtle but vicious broadside against the nation's defense establishment, accusing it of disseminating deceptive, self-serving propaganda, contrary to the country's interest, that, too, is considered a legitimate exercise of the right to free expression in the public interest."

The VP stated that CBS News had charged the Pentagon with unleashing (he quoted CBS directly) "... a propaganda barrage ... the creation of a run-away bureaucracy that frustrates attempts to control it." Agnew went on to say that the CBS script maintained that "nothing is more essential to a democracy than the free flow of information. Misinformation, distortion, and propoganda all interrupt that flow."

He continued by stating: "No one can disagree with the latter statement. But just as he who enters a court of equity should come with clean hands, the news organization that makes such charges should itself be free of any taint of misinformation, distortion and propoganda in its own operations. In this regard, it is the CBS television network, not the Department of Defense, that leaves much to be desired in terms of the 'free flow of information'."

Agnew then quoted from reports by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Special Subcommittee on Investigations of the House Commerce Committee about two other CBS documentaries, "Project Nassau" and "Hunger in America."

The House Subcommittee found that CBS had, in effect, financially subsidized a planned 1966 invasion of Haiti in order to make a documentary on the event. The documentary was never shown on television. However, the executive producer of "Project Nassau" was the executive producer for "The Selling of the Pentagon."

The FCC found that certain film sequences in "Hunger in America" did not, in fact, repre-

sent what CBS said they represented (i.e. a dying infant was said to have died of starvation when, in fact, the infant's death certificate listed the cause of death as "meningitis and peritonitis" due to "prematurity."). Agnew pointed out that the same person who wrote the script for "Hunger in America" also wrote the script for "The Selling of the Pentagon."

Toward the end of his speech, the Vice-President remarked, to laughter and applause from the audience, that: "My purpose here, however, has not been to pillory or 'intimidate' a network or any segment of the national news media in its effort to enhance the people's right to know. Rather, it is, once again, to point out to those in positions of power and responsibility that this right to know belongs to the people. It does not belong to the national networks or any other agency, public or private. It belongs to the people themselves, and they are entitled to a fair and full accounting of the truth, and nothing but the truth, by those who exercise great influence with their consent."

Apparently the Vice-President's remarks affected one reporter deeply. As Agnew launched into the portion of his speech on broadcasters giving too much coverage to extremists, C. Wendell Smith, a reporter for *The Phoenix*, an underground Boston paper, stood up in the center aisle of the room and stared at the Vice-President. Mr. Smith, wearing shoulder length hair and attired in blue jeans, a working shirt, and carrying a knapsack over one shoulder, presented a striking contrast to the carefully coiffured women and tuxedoed men. A Secret Service man, in a dinner jacket, led no less than half a dozen other Secret Service agents and two Boston policemen as they forcibly removed Smith from the room. Smith was jailed and subsequently released when the *Phoenix* editor put up \$100 bail.

History may see US guilty of war crimes

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 with the firebombings of Dresden and Tokyo in World War II and, in response to a question, said that each was very likely a violation of war crimes laws. However, Baxter, ultimately observed, "Laws of war are those laws enforced on losers by winners ... but we must still keep trying to remove some of the barbarism from war."

Frank Reel, a New York attorney who defended Yamashita during his trial and appeals, remarked that the circumstances of Yamashita's command were such that he was not guilty under the body of the law explained above. Yamashita did attempt to gain effective control of his troops and prevent massacre of the Filipinos but was severely harassed by US invasion forces and air forces. He did not even know, Reel said, which troops were under his command and what they were doing; so effective was American harassment of his lines of communication. "There was nothing to show that he knew about these crimes, condoned them, was able to know about them, or tolerated them." On the other hand,

Reel asserted, Westmoreland has "superb command and control of American forces." "These Mylai trials are the same as if Calley was replaced by LBJ, McNamara, or Westmoreland."

Legal wars?
 Concluding, Reel said that this body of law implied that there was a good way to fight a war and a bad way to fight one. All war, he continued, is illegal and immoral and the implications of the Yamashita trial are such that they are "bad laws and must be rejected."

The last speaker, Ted Ensign, National Coordinator of the Citizens Commission for the Investigation of US War Crimes, maintained that the attitudes and patterns of contemporary American society are more responsible for US war crimes than any single individual.

To end these crimes, he said: "We must make people understand the war and they must change the social conditions such as a penchant for quantified statistical data (like body counts) that bring about war crimes. Only when this is generalized will we be able to stop war crimes."

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