

NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(225-6521)

261

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 20 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said Vice President Spiro Agnew, like the late Adlai Stevenson, has not advocated "any kind of censorship" in criticizing the nation's media.

Dole referred to the Vice President's Nov. 13 speech on the media, particularly network television and to Stevenson's Sept. 8, 1952 speech, "The One Party Press" in Portland, Ore. Stevenson was twice candidate for President, Ambassador to the United Nations and Governor of Illinois.

"The speeches are quite similar in philosophy and intent," Dole said. "Neither suggested federal intervention, censorship or intimidation of any kind. And then as now, it appears the great majority of Americans agree with the comments of both men."

"Perhaps some of my Democrat friends hope to curry the favor of the so-called analysts and commentators on network television by rushing to their defense today," Dole said. "I am certain, however, no one has ever suggested that Mr. Stevenson would dream of advocating any kind of censorship."

Dole quoted the Vice President as saying, "Now I want to make myself perfectly clear. I'm not asking for Government censorship or any other kind of censorship."

In his Portland speech, Stevenson said, "What I think I detect is a growing uniformity of outlook among publishers....I think you will agree we cannot risk complacency. We need to be rededicated every day to the unfinished task of keeping our free press truly free. We need to work even harder for the time when all editors will honor their profession, when all publishers will have the sense of responsibility equal to their power and thus regain their / power."

"It's not honest conviction honestly stated that concerns me," Stevenson said. "Rather it is the tendency of many papers, and I include many columnists commentators, analysts, feature writers, and so on, to argue editorially from the personal objective, rather than from the whole truth..."

"...The agents of confusion and fear must not usurp the seats of the custodians of truth and patriotism. In saying this, I want to emphasize my belief that leadership for this development of a free press must come entirely from the profession itself. Government has its cooperative part to play. It must do everything possible to oppose censorship and to free channels of communication," Stevenson said.