

As I See It

TV Opinions Not Gospel Fact

By PAT COSTA

The hue and cry over Vice President Spiro Agnew's speech criticizing television commentators goes on. In the weeks that have followed the attack on those announcers in the media who serve up "instant analyses," we viewers (and readers) have been privy to rebuttals on every front and from the widest number of sources imaginable.

With indignation, scorn and in some cases projected hurt, with candor, cross charges and in the instance of the New York Times' James Reston with wry humor, the members of the communications field and their supporters have replied to the administration's spokesman.

As many as I read or listened to, there must have been an equal number that I missed. So perhaps, someone did reply to Agnew's charge with the answer which to me seems the most logical rebuttal.

What has been overlooked in the discussions, possibly because the newsmen take the fact so much for granted, is that the comments following any address, presidential or otherwise, are merely that: comments.

They do not purport to be anything other than editorial opinion, a device which allows newsmen to speculate, prophesy, read between the lines, agree, disagree and a host of other things which they are forbidden to do in straight news stories either read or printed.

In delivering these opinions, newsmen do not ask us to agree, to take them for gospel fact, to accept them for anything other than opinions of very human men whose pronouncements are being governed by a multitude of variables, not the least of which may be that they have 15 minutes to fill before the next regularly scheduled program is to begin and only five minutes worth of actual comment.

Perhaps Spiro Agnew's biggest mistake is and was, as it is of many viewers throughout the country, to assign too much importance to television.

Not too long ago actor Bill Holden being interviewed on a talk show deplored the victimizing by TV interviewers of those who have been involved in a tragedy. The reporters hold a microphone under the stunned person and ask them how they feel

when the decent thing would be to let them alone with their grief.

Said Holden, "These people don't seem to realize they don't have to answer — they owe the public nothing of their terrible upheaval."

Perhaps it is the same overpowering influence generated by television which makes people respond to a microphone and a camera that is to blame for giving undue importance to the profundities of its commentators.

Those familiar with the purpose of the editorial page of the newspaper must certainly realize when its counterpart, the commentary, is being projected on television, that neither is to be accepted as gospel, but only the extensions of thinking men.

George Ade once wrote of an individual that "He had been kicked in the head by a Mule when young and believed everything he read in the Sunday papers."

Just possibly could that be Mr. Agnew's problem? Kicked in the head by an elephant when young and believes everything he hears on television? Or is he just afraid that the rest of us do?

BOOKS

The following books of interest to our readers may be found on the shelves of the Rochester Public Library, or may be obtained through any affiliated library in the diocese.

Folk Religion in Japan, by Ichiro Hux (Chicago University, 1968). Discusses the relationship of Japanese folk religion and the social structures of Japanese life. Education.

The Throwaway Children, by Lisa Rickette (Lippincott, 1968). Illustrates the need for drastic changes in the handling of juvenile delinquency problems: Business and Social Science.

Ceremonies in Dark Old Men, by Lonnie Elder III. An extraordinary play, currently a New York smash, about a black family in Harlem who decide to bypass the white community and go it on their own by tying up with a local racketeer. Literature.

Only One Year, by Alliloueva Svetlana, Stalin's daughter. Tells what the free world feels like after living under Communism. Literature and Biography.

Beyond Racism, by Whitney Young, (Random, 1969). Executive director of the National Urban League proposes an action program to eliminate the racist division in America. Business and Social Science.

The Agony of the American Left, by Christopher Lasch (Knopf, 1969). Traces the decline of the Left as a potent force in American politics, then outlines possibilities for renewing its effectiveness. Business and Social Science.

The Twins Who Found Each Other, by Bard Lindeman (Marrow, 1969). Segregated identical twins who were later reunited in adulthood, and whose similar responses to IQ and aptitude tests suggests the strength of the influence of heredity. Education.

The Bog People: Iron Age Man Preserved, by P. V. Glob (Cornell University, 1969). Fascinating revelation of the discovery of Iron Age men and women nearly 2,000 years old whose bodies were found magnificently preserved in Northern European bogs. History.

The Realm of the Submarine, by Paul Cohen (Macmillan, 1969). The "facts of oceanographic life" which will enable man to make practical use of the sea. Science and Technology.

Red Ball in the Sky, by Charles F. Blair. Colorful experiences of a Pan-Am pilot whose flights in a single engine plane across the Atlantic and over the North Pole. Literature and Biography.

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Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace program is broadcast each evening at 7 p.m. by Rochester radio station WSAY, WBFO-FM in Auburn, television cable companies Channel 5 in Hornell, Channel 8 in Elmira and \$8.75 inc. in Corning. Those who will lead in recitation of the Rosary this week are:

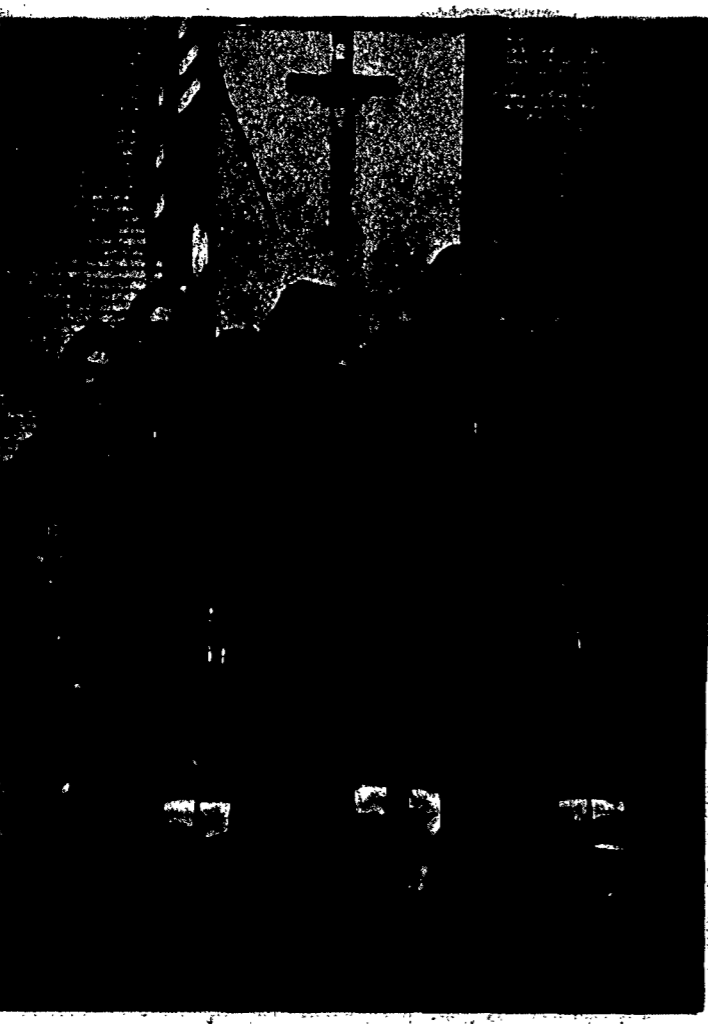
- Friday, Dec. 12—Frank Moch-evicius of St. Georges.
- Saturday, Dec. 13—Miss will be celebrated.
- Sunday, Dec. 14 — Peter Genza of St. Ambrose, accompanied by K. of C. Council 178.
- Monday, Dec. 15 — Albert Burkhard of St. Josephs, with the Holy Name Society.
- Tuesday, Dec. 16—Paul Atvel of St. Cecilia's.

DOLLY! BENEFIT

The Nazareth College alumnae will sponsor a benefit showing of "Hello Dolly" Thursday night, Dec. 18, the second night of the movie's run at the Monroe Theatre. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Proceeds will go toward scholarships for daughters of alumnae. Mrs. James Creighton is chairman.

MUSEUM TO SHOW

"The Nutcracker," a color film featuring the New York City Ballet Company and Tchaikovsky's music, will be shown at the Rochester Museum at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 17.



Nazareth Singers

The Choral Belles, students of Nazareth Academy, will entertain the employees at Rochester Products, during the lunch hours on Dec. 18. First Row (l-r): Gall Galletto, Mary McMoors, Diane Lazeski and Kathleen Valenza. Second Row: Beverly Fox, Maureen Whelehan, Charlene Drexler, and Christine Marcello. Third Row: Margaret Anderson, Cecelia Griffin, Mary Dougherty and Bridget Finn. Mrs. Donald Conway (not pictured) will be pianist for the group.

Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Catholic Office of Motion Pictures.

With the Catholic Office ratings, we include the ratings of the Motion Picture Association: G, general; M, mature audiences; R, restricted (persons under 16 admitted only when accompanied by parents or adult guardian); X, persons under 16 not admitted.

Cinema—"Midnight Cowboy" (Adults, with reservations).

Coronet—"Hawaii" (Adults).

Fine Arts—"Easy Rider" (Adults, with reservations). R.

Leew's—"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" (Adults). M.

Little—"Alice's Restaurant" (Adults). R.

Monroe—"Hello Dolly" (No Rating).

Panorama—"Goodbye, Mr. Chips" (General). G.

Paramount—"Once You Kiss A Stranger" (Adults). M.

Regent—"Downhill Racer" (Adults). M.

Stoneridge—"A Place for Lovers" (Adults). R.

Studio 2—"I Am Curious (Yellow)" (Condemned). X.

Stinson—"Battle of Britain" (General). G.

Towne I—"Paint Your Wagon" (Adults). M.

Towne II—"The Sterile Cuckoo" (Adults, with reservations). M.

Waring—"Take The Money and Run" (Adults). M.

CLINIC ON THE MOVE

Only \$500 is needed to outfit a mobile clinic to reach victims of leprosy in the mission lands. Checks may be sent to Father Joseph Reinhart, Propagation of the Faith, 60 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604.

TV Movie Ratings

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patronage; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Week of Fri., Dec. 12 thru Thurs., Dec. 18

Time	Channel	Movie	Rating
Friday, December 12			
10:00 a.m.	13	Five Golden Hours	A-3
9:00 p.m.	10	Paris When It Sizzles	A-3
11:30 p.m.	13	One Potato, Two Potato	A-2
Saturday, December 13			
7:30 p.m.	21	The Red Shoes	B
9:00 p.m.	8	Return From the Ashes	A-3
11:30 p.m.	10	Blood and Sand	B
11:45 p.m.	8	Night People	A-2
Sunday, December 14			
2:30 p.m.	13	Sword of Lancelot	A-2
4:45 p.m.	13	The Pit and the Pendulum	A-2
9:00 p.m.	13	The Deadly Bees	A-2
11:15 p.m.	13	Johnny Belinda	A-2
11:25 p.m.	10	Intruder in the Dust	A-1
Monday, December 15			
10:00 a.m.	13	Do You Know This Voice?	No Rating
9:00 p.m.	8	The Big Gamble	A-1
11:30 p.m.	13	The Private Lives of Adam and Eve	B
Tuesday, December 16			
10:00 a.m.	13	Come September—Part 1	A-3
8:30 p.m.	13	The Silent Gun	No Rating
9:00 p.m.	8	Silent Night, Lonely Night	No Rating
11:30 p.m.	13	Season of Passion	A-3
Wednesday, December 17			
10:00 a.m.	13	Come September—Conclusion	A-3
9:00 p.m.	13	The Notorious Landlady	A-3
12:00 p.m.	13	The River's Edge	B
Thursday, December 18			
10:00 a.m.	13	The Private Lives of Adam and Eve	B
9:00 p.m.	10	Beach Party	A-3
12:30 p.m.	13	Psyche 59	B

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