Scott Charges 'Managed News' Imperils People's Right To Know

By GERRY URBACH

Hurling the charge that "the Kennedy Administration, by manipulating news as a cold war weapon, is imperiling the American people's right to full and accurate information on how public affairs are being handled," Senator Hugh Scott, Republican Senator from Pennsylvania addressed the Rice Forum Monday night.

Stating his views as a member of the "loyal opposition" whose duty is "to be skeptical, to mistrust, and to propose a constructive alternative," Senator Scott charged the present administration with defining the truth in four ways in such a manner that the American people are being denied full information about their government.

ONE OF THE administration's definitions of truth, Senator Scott charged, is that "truth is information that is released at the pleasure of the Government." This, he asserted, was obviously the case in the recent Cuban affair, in which the public was told the true extent of Communist penetration in Cuba "only long after the information was revealed on the floor of the Senate and the House of Representatives."

Another definition of truth used by the administration, the Senator charged, is that "truth" is information given only to those correspondents who will treat it gingerly." This is effected, he said, in a "background news conference" where select reporters are given "spoon-fed information" of uncertain origin.

The administration's third definition of truth, he said, is that "truth is a correction of its own erroneous stories long after the damage has been done." As an example, Senator Scott cited Secretary of Labor Wirtz' "deliberate misrepresentation, by his own admission, of employment figures before the last election." When questioned by a reporter about the figures, Senator Scott stated that the Secretary of labor "confessed" that his figures were "invalid."

THE FOURTH administration definition of truth discussed by the Pennsylvania solon was one attributed to Arthur Sylvestre, Assistant Secretary of Defense: "it would seem to me basic, all through history, that it is an inherent government right, to lie to save itself when it's going up into a nuclear war. This seems to me basic." To this administration dictum the senator appended, "This is basic all right—basic contempt of the people."

SENATOR SCOTT, former national chairman of the Republican Party, used his attacks on the administration's handling of the news to launch a broadside into Kennedy's foreign policy.

The Senator implied that the handling of the news is "only a symptom of the present administration's need to cover up its mistakes throughout its foreign policy." The Pennsylvania Republican cited as fact that we have thirteen allies by various commitments, and that in the past two years, the Kennedy administration "has managed to (Continued on Page 8)
THE G.O.P. Senator also attacked our "liberal sprinkling of foreign aid with no strings attached," through the Alliance for Progress and in grants to Communist countries.

Senator Scott feels that the present administration "has little sense of responsibility," and that "politics is a great game with them." Questioned about the previous administration's handling of the truth in regard to the U-2 incident, he lauded the honest handling of the affair by President Eisenhower, and contrasted the former President's actions in this regard with those of the present administration.

In conclusion, Senator Scott observed that "all can agree" that "we need a courageous and truthful party in power and a courageous and truthful opposition" and that they should "bring their differences out in the open to be argued before the people."