

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE
NATIONAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE
FOR BROADCASTING

We are writing you because we believe that your organization is guilty of a glaring mis-assignment of its priorities. In an open letter of your own, published on October 4 in the New York Times, you openly and pointedly invited representatives from CBS, NBC, and ABC to attend today's conference at the Hotel Americana, even though you admitted that the three networks were doing very little to provide enlightened television in this country.

Yet you yourselves have failed to extend cordial or even perfunctory invitations to the most liberated and enlightened segment of television today, namely the new videotape community and the artists and critics of the **Art Workers Coalition** who realize the potential it holds for the future of this nation. We are correcting this oversight on your part by coming to the conference anyway. We intend to distribute this leaflet, take part in the various panels and events, and to discuss with your members the growing crisis in this country.

We believe that the presence of Thomas P .F. **Hoving** as chairman of your conference is part of this growing crisis. We recently negotiated with the Metropolitan Museum over the ground rules of a public hearing held there last week and discovered that Mr. **Hoving** felt that both the museum and our group should supply "press observers" for this event. We discovered that what Mr. **Hoving** meant by "press observers" was in fact people to "correct" reporters in writing their stories and to "correct" cameramen who pointed their cameras in the wrong direction. **Hoving** also forbade his staff from attending this hearing-those curators who did try to attend were ordered away by museum guards. We believe that Thomas **Hoving** and Spiro Agnew are the same problem-the difference between - them is only one of degree, not of quality. Both are trying to stifle discussion of important cultural problems at a time when our nation's future desperately requires it.

We hope such discussion will take place during this conference. We will do' everything in our power to make it take place.

Media Committee
Art Workers Coalition
October 25, 1970