

Presidential Aide Buchanan

By Lawrence Meyer

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Special presidential consultant Patrick J. Buchanan has suggested that racial and political considerations were a factor in the reported decision of a federal grand jury to name President Nixon as an unindicted coconspirator in the Watergate cover-up.

Buchanan's remarks were contained in a column of opinion he wrote that appeared in yesterday's editions of The New York Times. Although the column appeared as administration officials were attacking the House Judiciary Committee for alleged leaks designed to further President Nixon's impeachment, Buchanan said he had written the column Monday from a

rough draft without prior consultation with other White House officials.

In the column, Buchanan wrote:

"Well, the grand jurors who voted 19 to 0 to name this President were drawn from a pool of residents of the nation's capital and environs, the most anti-Nixon city in the United States.

"While the District of Columbia was giving an astonishing 78 per cent of its votes to George McGovern and Sargent Shriver (the 1972 Democratic candidates for President and Vice President), elsewhere in America the pair was buried beneath the greatest avalanche of ballots in the history of the Democratic Party.

"Only a single member of

that 23-member grand jury was a Republican. Seventeen of the 23 were black—members of a racial minority that voted, nationally, upwards of 10 to 1 against the President, a minority whose political leaders have repeatedly characterized Richard Nixon and his administration as bigoted and racist."

Buchanan's remarks were directed against the federal grand jury that indicted seven men—including six former White House or Nixon administration officials—on March 1, charging them with conspiracy and obstruction of justice in connection with the Watergate cover-up. It was reported last week that the grand jury also voted 19 to 0 to name Mr. Nixon as an unindicted cocon-

spirator after being told by Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski that it might not be legally possible to indict an incumbent President.

Asked during a brief telephone interview if he was saying that the grand jury was racist, Buchanan replied, "I'm saying what I said in the piece."

A source close to the original prosecution team who had close contact with the grand jury over a period of several months before being supplanted by the special prosecutor said yesterday that he recalled no incidents or comments that would support the conclusion that the grand jury was racially or politically biased. "I never saw anything but the straight and narrow of

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Criticizes Jury

"trying to get to the bottom of a nasty situation," said this source, who asked to remain anonymous.

Buchanan also charged in his column that "members of the prosecution staff, gathered in court, cheered and embraced" when a U.S. District Court jury returned a guilty verdict against former White House aide Dwight Chapin on two counts of perjury.

James Doyle, spokesman for the special Watergate prosecutor, said, "The statement is just totally false." Doyle said he had checked with about a dozen persons.

Independent interviews by The Washington Post with several persons present in the courtroom at the time the ver-



PATRICK J. BUCHANAN
... "anti-Nixon city"

dict was returned found no support for Buchanan's charge.