

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Mr. Buchanan and the Watergate Grand Jury'

The squeals from your editorial page notwithstanding ("Mr. Buchanan and the Watergate Grand Jury," June 16) the political and racial composition of the grand jury that named the President of the United States a Watergate co-conspirator is news the nation has a right to know.

Certainly, The Washington Post Company, which helped make "all-white jury" a pejorative epithet in the salad days of the civil rights movement is on slippery turf in attempting to ignore or disguise the fact that 17 members of the Watergate panel are from a minority that voted 10-1 against President Nixon.

And certainly, the public has a right to know that the Special Prosecution Force, which presented the selected evidence to that grand jury, is saturated with liberal Democrats. Seven of its first eleven senior appointments were former associates of the Brothers Kennedy.

What, other than ideological sensitivity or a vested institutional interest in the President's impeachment, could have generated such a studied over-reaction on the part of The Post, when these relevant facts were elevated?

Within Sunday's saccharine little psalm to the grand jurors, The Post warns that, should the House impeach, Buchanan is just the type of fellow

who might suggest political motivation was behind it.

You may rely upon it.

One must concede that there are honorable individuals, on both sides, who having heard the evidence, have concluded that the resignation or impeachment of Mr. Nixon is in the interest of the Republic. But the impeachment charge is not led by such as these. It is led by others—Naderites, McGovernites, Nixon-haters in the press, ACLU zealots, the "impeachment lobby"—which wanted this President beheaded before a shred of evidence was in. They are less interested in the truth of the allegations than they are in visiting revenge upon Mr. Nixon for the humiliation suffered at his hands in 1972 when what they stood for politically was rejected by the American people in the worst electoral defeat suffered by the left in forty years.

The specifics of Watergate mean little more to these people than did the violation of the Tenure of Office Act to those who sought to impeach Andrew Johnson. The Radical Republicans wanted Johnson removed because he stood in the path of the Carthaginian peace they sought to impose upon the Confederacy. And the impeachment lobby has sought Mr. Nixon's destruc-

tion, to erase the humiliation and reverse the verdict of 1972, to disgrace the political movement he led, to reimpose upon the nation the policies, programs and personalities repudiated in a million voting booths.

Again, the movement to impeach the President is not without decent men, with high motives. But The Post is deceiving itself, and its constituency, if it cannot recognize that this enterprise is shot through, not simply with politics, but with demagoguery, vengeance and malice.

And one must wonder why The Post—which considers itself the Calumet Farms of investigative reporters—seems so ineffectual in running down and exposing the source of the malicious leaks out of the House Judiciary, seemingly aimed at damaging and destroying in print the reputations of the President and his Secretary of State. The "Who" and the "Why" of these leaks are national news the people have a right to know. And the absence of journalistic effort in exposing the men responsible suggests that, in this impeachment enterprise, some members of the national press are less observers than collaborators.

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