

# Mr. Buchanan, Would You

To the Editor:

So Patrick J. Buchanan (Op-Ed page, Nov. 24) found Senator George McGovern's criticisms of Richard Nixon dirty and mean. Apparently he thinks no Presidential candidate should paint such a repulsive picture of his opponent as George McGovern did in this campaign. Perhaps he did not realize that the more horrible the subject that an artist will paint, the more horrifying will be the picture.

The question is, where did the trickiness, the deceit, the immorality originate? Apparently Buchanan thinks they originated in McGovern. But many of us, obviously a minority, feel they originated in Nixon, and that the portrayal by McGovern, with allowance for artistic or political license, was truthful. I for one would thank Mr. Buchanan for stating again so clearly and succinctly the qualities in Tricky Dicky which reinforced our minority's decision to vote for "Saint George." PHILIP DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE  
Greenfield, Mass.

To the Editor:

The election is over. The game has been played and a decision reached. The loser has conceded. The President won by a landslide. What more does he want?

It seems that the winners of the election are not content with defeating the Democratic Presidential candidate, but want even more to defeat the man personally, making sure that his reputation is duly tarnished. It seems that they want to deny a man the personal integrity that eludes them.

WILLIAM G. AYLWARD  
Philadelphia, Pa.

To the Editor:

Mr. Buchanan's article contains certain misstatements about me which I would like to refute.

First of all, I never "condemned the President as the nation's biggest slumlord." I did say that our country has become the nation's biggest slum landlord. That, unfortunately, is true. As a result of the inept administration at H.U.D., the U.S. Government now owns more slum housing than any landlord in America.

I never said the President was a "reformed drunk." Although a television talk show moderator attempted to draw such an inference from me, I specifically denied making such a statement or suggestion.

I did say I believe the President is obsessed with power and that he and

our country, under his leadership, have become the "number one war-maker" in the world today and the "number one bomber of all time," and, as an American citizen, I deeply regret that.

Mr. Buchanan questions how I could have served as Ambassador to Paris after Mr. Nixon became President if I believed the things I said during the campaign. The answer is easy. When Mr. Nixon became President, I hoped that he would seek peace in accordance with his campaign promises of 1968. I hoped to assist in achieving the peace Mr. Nixon promised, and I quit when it became clear, beyond any doubt, Mr. Nixon had chosen Vietnamization instead of negotiations in Paris and prolonged war instead of immediate peace. Moreover, in 1969 and 1970, it was not clear that the President would choose war instead of peace, power rather than the needs of people, the creation rather than the elimination of slums.

Despite Mr. Buchanan's statement that "reports have it" that I was "padding about the West Wing in search of employment as late as 1970," there is no truth in what he writes. That, apparently, is the reason why Mr. Buchanan used as an escape clause the phrase, "reports have it."

I am sorry to bother you with this letter, and perhaps I should not respond to such allegations and misstatements. But experience indicates that in these days truth has become a scarce commodity. So in defense of truth rather than myself, I send this letter to you.

SARGENT SHRIVER  
Washington, D. C.

*Sargent Shriver was Senator McGovern's running mate.*

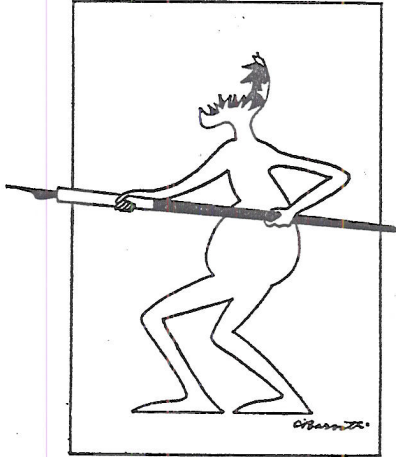
To the Editor:

Mr. Buchanan's piece is so full of inaccuracies, lies and truths warped to serve his purpose that the defense might well consider simply reading it to the jury and then resting its case. However, the jury may not remember the facts.

For example, Mr. Buchanan claims Mr. McGovern's statement that Mr. Nixon's career has been marked by vilification of his opponents is nowhere supported by the record.

Was not Mr. Nixon the most vocal of that band of zealots who publicly and often accused Dean Acheson of being a tool of the Communist international? Did not Mr. Nixon wage his

# Step Outside and Say That, Please?



Charles Barsotti

campaign for a seat in the House by implying that his opponent, Jerry Voorhis, was a Communist fellow traveler? And when he ran for the Senate, did he not do the same to Helen Gahagan Douglas?

Has not Mr. Nixon's Vice President risen to a prominence unusual for the holder of his office by proclaiming that dissent is unpatriotic? And what was Mr. Nixon's comment on the Kent State affair?

ERIC P. SWENSON  
Weston, Conn.

To the Editor:

Mr. Buchanan wrote: "To those of us charged with working up the winter book, preliminary research and early scouting reports . . . McGovern wasn't all that nice." The "us" implies he assisted in this "research." As an interested taxpayer, I would like to know if Mr. Buchanan and associates did this work while on the Government payroll and if so, could he please explain why our tax dollars should support such political activities?

JEFFREY H. LYNFORD  
West Nyack, N.Y.

To the Editor:

Restraint practiced by a public servant or a writer is the hallmark of discipline—the moral discipline we all applaud.

It is admitted that Mr. McGovern often used rough and even vulgar verbiage in expressing his frustration. He was desperate. President Nixon ignored his philippics and left him hanging before a ghost adversary.

But for The New York Times to entertain the Buchanan comments, one

will seek in vain a rationale for such publicity. Buchanan, a partisan himself, must have spent considerable time in assembling these artificial pearls thrown out in the heat of battle. To have them re-exhibited serves no purpose and certainly no public interest.

KIMON A. DOUKAS  
New York City

To the Editor:

It will be interesting to note the yowling by the New Left about that beautiful article debunking the legend of George McGovern. Three rousing cheers for Mr. Buchanan.

JOHN F. KENNEY  
Brandon, Vt.

To the Editor:

The attack on George McGovern as some kind of venomous slanderer began early on the apparent theory that if Richard Nixon, after four years of war, could be made a man of peace, anything was possible. For the White House to continue the attack now—after the election—makes it only too clear, alas, that Mr. Nixon is one of those Presidents to whom it is not enough to be re-elected. He must also be loved.

It is on the question of the war that Buchanan's analysis is widest of the mark. There is genuine indignation in his tone at the thought that anyone would use the word "barbaric" or "murderous," at least in a political campaign. It does not occur to the Nixons, even now, that there are millions of Americans—of whom George McGovern is only one—who believe it is barbarous to concentrate modern weapons technology on a peasant society, or to use napalm on a civilian population. They are outraged by the use of antipersonnel bombs to terrorize a backward country into surrender to an enemy of whose identity it is only dimly aware.

George McGovern characterized the Nixon Administration as the "most corrupt in our history" because he believes it to be the most corrupt. If Mr. Buchanan has a stronger case to make for Grant or Harding—the only contenders—he should make it.

George McGovern described the war policy of the Nixon Administration as "barbaric"—indeed, the most barbaric since Hitler—because he believed it to be so. The number of civilians killed and homeless from our bombardment

certainly has to put us right up there—as Mr. Nixon would say—with the actions of the Pakistanis in East Bengal, or the government-sanctioned slaughter of "Communists" in Indonesia. Vietnam may not make us Number One but we are surely in the money, worth at least a call to the locker room.

FRANK MANKIEWICZ  
Washington, D.C.

*Frank Mankiewicz was national campaign manager for Senator McGovern.*

To the Editor:

When Mr. Buchanan chose the word "slander" to describe Senator McGovern's campaign statements about President Nixon and his Administration he chose a term which by definition implies falsehood in the Senator's remarks.

If President Nixon was not "up to his ears in political sabotage" despite the Watergate evidence to the contrary, if he does not favor the "powerful and the greedy" over the public interest, if his appointees begin to prove he has not "degraded the Supreme Court," and if his actions during the next four years prove that his is not the "most morally bankrupt" or the "trickiest, most deceitful . . . in our entire national history," then Mr. Buchanan is right—McGovern dealt in slander.

Let us hope that Mr. Buchanan's choice of words is justified by the President during the next four years.

REV. ROBERT L. HILL  
Marblehead, Mass.

To the Editor:

Presidential aide Buchanan is on dangerous ground when he breathes surrogated fire and smoke against the "double standard of the national media." Has he forgotten the schizoid difference in Administration treatment of Calley and Lavelle as opposed to the Berrigans and the draft resisters? Now there is a double standard!

REV. ROBERT NEWTON BARGER  
Urbana, Ill.

To the Editor:

President Nixon, speaking through surrogate Buchanan, revealed yet another side of his character—that of the rotten winner.

JACK T. WEBER  
Syosset, N.Y.