

Handy Guide

To Political Tricks

Washington

Pat Buchanan, testifying yesterday before the Senate Watergate committee, provided his own handy guide for rating political antics.

He listed four categories: 1 — utterly outrageous; 2 — dirty tricks; 3 — political hardball; 4 — pranks.

In the first category, he put the Watergate break-in and the circulation in the 1972 Florida primary of a scurrilous letter on Senator Edmund Muskie's stationery, impugning sexual misconduct to Senators Hubert H. Humphrey and Henry M. Jackson.

In the second, Buchanan put the "Canuck" letter, stirring Muskie during the New Hampshire primary, which he won but unimpressively. Buchanan didn't spell out political hardball, which in political circles usually means playing tough but legal. And pranks, as he emphasized earlier, are acts of political sabotage performed by Democrats — or so, he complained, the press always said.

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