

Ethnic Bias Denied

No Slurs on Tape, Nixon Aide Says

A 'Poison Campaign' Charged

Washington

President Nixon's special counsel charged yesterday that a "concerted campaign" has been launched to "poison the public mind against the President" by suggesting that ethnic slurs were deleted from the recently released Watergate transcripts.

J. Fred Buzhardt said he personally listened to many of the Watergate tapes, and that he heard nothing he could interpret as an ethnic slur.

"For a number of days now," Buzhardt said, "we have been literally besieged by rumors that there were ethnic slurs in the tapes. Some language which I wouldn't think of repeating here or in private has been suggested as being on the tapes and I find it just totally unbelievable.

"There have been fabrications. There have been attempts to portray remarks that are on the tapes as racial slurs, and they are not.

"And I wonder, you know. It's clear that a concerted campaign has been made to cause these to be publicized. And that is one of the problems that bothers many of us.



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NIXON SPECIAL COUNSEL J. FRED BUZHARDT
'I find it just totally unbelievable'

"Obviously this type of material is not relevant to the question of whether the President has committed treason, bribery or high crimes or misdemeanors. I can only characterize this as malicious and vicious attempts to poison the public mind against the President by any means."

Citing sources with direct knowledge of the President's remarks, the New York Times reported yesterday that Mr. Nixon once called Judge John J. Sirica a

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"Wop." The newspaper also said that the President referred to "those Jew boys" in the Securities and Exchange Commission, and that he talked about three Watergate prosecuting attorneys as "those Jews down there."

Citing highly reliable sources, the Times said that in a Feb. 28, 1973, conversation with former White House Counsel John Dean, the President talked about a network of Jews in the media and government who kept one another informed.

Saying he listened to close to 40 tapes, Buzhardt said, "I don't remember the word 'Jew.' I do remember the word 'Jewish' being used . . . somebody may have said somebody was Polish." In no case, Buzhardt argued, were ethnic references intended as slurs.

In his televised appearance on CBS's "Face the Nation," Buzhardt also reaffirmed that Mr. Nixon does not now contemplate turning over further tapes or documents to the House Judiciary Committee or to the special Watergate prosecutor.

The President's counsel said he believes that all White House information regarding milk industry con-

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tributions to Mr. Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign has been turned over to the House Judiciary Committee.

But Representative Barbara Jordan (Dem-Texas), a member of the panel considering impeachment, said, "We have no evidence on milk at all." Both Buzhardt and Representative Jordan said negotiations are continuing with respect to the release of more materials involving the so-called milk fund.

Last week the committee began formal impeachment hearings. The hearings are expected to continue for about six weeks before the panel sends its recommendations to the full House.

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White House Counsel James St. Clair and special Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski are to appear in court today to argue about the release of an additional 64 tapes that the prosecution has subpoenaed for the September trial of seven former high-level presidential aides and campaign officials.

Meanwhile, retiring Senator Norris Cotton (Rep.-N.H.), who considers him-

self a friend of the President, said he hopes the House "will hurry up and bring impeachment."

Cotton said the President should not resign, partly because that would leave an "unresolved blotch on the history of the country."

He castigated fellow senators who have called for Mr. Nixon's resignation, "because a juror is not supposed to make a judgment unless he has seen the sworn testimony." The Senate would try the President in the event the House approves a bill of impeachment.

Cotton said he has seen no evidence to implicate Mr. Nixon in any criminal activity.

Elsewhere, Iowa's Des Moines Register said the "lack of confidence in Nixon is growing to the point where, we agree, a change in command is vitally needed."

The Register's Sunday editorial urged that the impeachment process move ahead quickly, while guarding the President's rights to a fair hearing. Resignation, the paper said, would bring "an unsatisfactory conclusion of the issue."

Washington Post