

NYTimes
Buchanan's 'Hatred'

To the Editor:

Patrick J. Buchanan's Aug. 8 article on the Op-Ed page was saddening and sickening. It was saddening because this article is a continuation of the we/they mentality of our politics.

By implication, his side is the good side, even though laws were broken, lies were told, civil rights were violated and the Constitution was ignored. The other side is the bad side, doubly bad in his opinion since the public was not made aware of the illegal acts of previous Administrations.

Thoughtful persons are not for corrupt public officials, regardless of what party they belong to. Thoughtful persons are not for the continuation of this we/they dichotomy. Thoughtful persons are for well-informed, reasonable, honest men representing them at all levels of government, regardless of party affiliations.

Mr. Buchanan's article was sickening because it suggests that Mr. Nixon was not a man who repeatedly lied; was not a man driven from the highest office because he was morally corrupt. Mr. Buchanan may not care for the personalities of the officials who understood their responsibilities and presented Mr. Nixon's wrongdoings to the public. However, it was not necessary to say they were motivated by their "hatred of Richard Milhous Nixon."

Corruption in government is a sad, sickening affair. Unfortunately, Mr. Buchanan's article contains no remedies. It only illustrates his continuing hatred for the other side.

RUSSELL T. THOMPSON
Holtsville, N. Y., Aug. 9, 1975

The Numbers Game

To the Editor:

William Safire's gallery of surviving and successful Nixon appointees [column Aug. 7] graphically illustrates the dependency of our pardoning President upon his predecessor's Administration. There are many distinguished figures in the group, as indeed we should expect in the leadership of our nation.

By Safire's logic we are projected into a curious numbers game, the gist of which is that his former employer deserves credit for selection of honest people whose numbers greatly exceed the dozen or so of his staff who have been convicted of felonies. The final affront to equity and to moral sen-

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sibility is that our Nixon-appointed President has somehow qualified as the perpetuation of the good qualities that far outweigh the aberrations of his creator.

When will the Special Prosecutor complete the probe of the erased tapes and of the process of amending the transcripts released by the White House, both clearly acts in the obstruction of justice? In Jerry Ford's good time. And when the investigation concludes, will some of Mr. Safire's list of appointees possibly move from the honor roll to the group of unfortunates victimized by America's system of justice?

The reference to Dan Rather is quintessential Nixonism: the President of the United States vs. a television journalist, a *reductio ad absurdum* pitting the fortunes of Presidential appointees against the career and public awareness of a single citizen-worker. In smallness of mind and twisted morality we have endured more than is tolerable in the conduct of national affairs. The marvel is that the Safires and other apologists stay on. But that too is the strength of our system.

LAURENCE G. BROWN
Marina del Rey, Calif., Aug. 7, 1975