

When Pat Buchanan appeared before the Ervin committee on Wednesday, September 26, there was another Nixon counterattack, on the committee and on the press. By any normal standard his personal conduct would have been offensive. It is the blame assumption and a manner of self-presentation by Nixonians that they cannot and do not give offense. This they blend with the paranoid view that is an adaptation of the successful Nixon method, the presumption that all the rest of the world is enemy and inevitably wrong-doing.

There had been a leak attributed to unnamed committee sources. The committee's membership and staff includes Republicans as well as Democrats. Buchanan had no notion who had leaked what he objected to, ~~assumkn~~ assuming, of course, that he and his had not been responsible for the leaking, a field of endeavor in which they have no peers.

As usual, the committee elected to face Buchanan on his terms. There is no way of overcoming this self-imposed liability, something none of Nixon's unsuccessful opponents learned or survived politically. It was silent about his abuses, apologetic about the leak, regretted not supplying him with copies of his own memoranda, which he had been directed to bring under subpoena and had failed to do! and didn't bother to register even a formal protest over his