

NIXON AIDE SCORES TV NEWS POLICIES

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Suggests Antitrust Suits Against 'Liberal Bias'

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WASHINGTON, May 5—A White House speechwriter, Patrick J. Buchanan, created a stir here today with a suggestion that the Nixon Administration consider antitrust legislation against the three television networks because of what he called their "monopoly" on news presentation.

In an interview last night over the educational television network, Mr. Buchanan denounced what he called the liberal bias of the major networks and said, in part, that if they continued to "freeze out opposing points of view and opposing information, you're going to find something done in the area of antitrust type action."

However, Mr. Buchanan told his interviewer, Elizabeth Drew, that this was "a personal" view and that he was certain that the administration was not drafting legislation at this time to deal with what he termed a "monopoly of ideas."

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NIXON AIDE HITS TV NEWS POLICY

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The Administration went to some lengths today to make certain that official Washington and the media understood that the views expressed by Mr. Buchanan were, in fact, his own.

At the White House, Gerald L. Warren, a deputy press secretary, under a barrage of questions, said that Mr. Buchanan had been reflecting "his own views." He said that he did not know what Mr. Nixon's thoughts were on the subject. "I don't have a Presidential view to give you," Mr. Warren said.

At the Justice Department, Walker B. Comegys, acting Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, noted that the department had filed suits against the three major networks on charges of maintaining an illegal degree of control over prime-time entertainment.

The Government contends that the networks have "monopolized and restrained trade" in prime-time entertainment, not only by producing their

own shows but also by acquiring financial interests in programs produced by independent producers.

'Not Aimed at News'

Mr. Comegys stressed that the suits were not aimed at the networks' news presentation or were they designed to provide "any basis for a later attack on network news content."

Indeed, he continued, "the antitrust laws would not permit such action."

Mr. Buchanan is regarded by some observers as the most conservative of the President's speech writers. A former editorial writer on The Saint Louis Globe Democrat, he wrote many of Mr. Nixon's campaign speeches and, later, helped write some of Vice President Agnew's attacks on the media. He prepares a daily summary of the news for Mr. Nixon.

In the televised interview, the speechwriter said the networks had not given the country "a balanced representation of viewpoints" and "are moving into a point where the American people are going to make demands, demands that could be reflected in legislative action."

Mr. Buchanan did not elaborate on the sort of legislation he had in mind, saying only that "it would have to be something different and something advanced."