SFChronicle

Nixon Aide News Media Rips Demos,

Springfield, III.

White House aide Patrick J. Buchanan said yesterday the Democratic administrations of the 1960s and the news media are "partners in bankruptcy" of the people's faith in their government.

"Time has shown that the conservative skepticism toward government, its programs and promises — disparaged in the early 1960s as timidity and negativism was prophetic," he told a university audience here.

"No government — especially a limited and Democratic one — could live up to the press notices made for the federal government at the beginning of the 1960s, because the promises were so extravagant and made with such fervor, the inevitable disillusionment was that much greater."

Buchanan said the news media, as "cheerleaders" of the two previous administrations, "must be named — in that happy Watergate phrase — as a non-indicted co-conspirator" in the decline of confidence in government.

"The men who ran the government, the congress, the courts, the foundations and universities . . . the national media and networks . . . in the failure of the '60s they are partners in bankruptcy," he said.

Buchanan, a presidential speech writer who also authored former Vice President Spiro Agnew's first speeches attacking segments of the national news media, called Watergate "an episodic thing, the problem of a particular time and place..."

"When Watergate, is behind us the old faith and confidence in government — of a decade ago — will not automatically or even necessarily return," he said.

United Press