

Administration Speech

By Lou Cannon

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The trust of Americans in their government and institutions is being undermined by a "marriage of left-wing bias and network power," a Nixon administration speechwriter contends in a just-published book.

Patrick J. Buchanan, a special consultant to the President, makes the accusation in "The New Majority," which was published by a Philadelphia bank and distributed to a mailing list of 25,000.

"... An incumbent elite, with an ideological slant unshared by the nation's majority, has acquired absolute control of the most powerful medium of communication known to man," Buchanan writes. "And that elite is using that media monopoly to discredit those with whom it disagrees, and to advance its own ideological objectives — and it is defending that monopoly by beating its several critics



PATRICK J. BUCHANAN
... speechwriter-author

over the head with the stick of the First Amendment."

Buchanan goes on to warn critics of the press not to be "distracted by cries of 'repression' and public tears over the 'death of the First Amendment.'" In the same chapter he contends that

"liberal bias" has long been present in the media but says that it has in the last decade been allied to "unprecedented power."

"Men who are taking an increasingly adversary stance toward the social and political values, mores and traditions of the majority of Americans have also achieved monopoly control of the medium of communication upon which 60 per cent of these Americans depend as the primary source of news and information about their government and society," Buchanan writes.

The criticisms are similar in tone and content to those made by Vice President Spiro Agnew in a series of 1969 speeches which Buchanan assisted in preparing.

Buchanan presently oversees the preparation of the daily news summary at the White House and helps brief the President for news conferences. He also assists in writing speeches and messages.

"The New Majority" was published by the Girard Bank as part of a continuing essay series on "major issues and problems of our day." Previous books include James Michener's "The Quality of Life" and Barbara Ward's "An Urban Planet?"

A spokesman for the bank said that the Buchanan book was commissioned because "our focus has shifted from a world scope to domestic issues and we considered Buchanan an eloquent spokesman for the administration."

He said Buchanan received a "substantial fee" for writing the 79-page book.

In a chapter on "Mr. Nixon and the Blacks" Buchanan defends the administration record on equality of opportunity but says that "the President and the majority of the civil rights community appear in fundamental disagreement" about the necessity for racial quotas.

Given this disagreement, he says, "there seems small

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ground for compromise, small hope for a political entente."

Buchanan says the President has shown both in and out of office that he favors federal legislation guaranteeing equal access to jobs, schools and the ballot box. But he parts company with civil rights leaders on the need for "preferential treatment," Buchanan writes.

"The old battle cry of the civil rights movement, 'an equal chance at the starting line,' seemed on the verge of being discarded for a new demand for an 'equal place at the finish line,'" he says. "From equality of opportunity, the new call went forth for equality of result."

Buchanan says that Presi-

dent Nixon's landslide victory of 1972 was a repudiation of Sen. George McGovern's beliefs.

"It was the man's ideology, not his personality or competence, that had Republicans making novenas for his nomination and frantic Democrats urging him to move to the center while there was yet time," he writes.

Buchanan defines the "new American majority" which backed the President as working class and middle class with a geographic base in the Southern, Border and Mountain states and the Midwest.

"Socially and culturally, it is traditional America, Middle America, as opposed to

the liberal elite, the constituency of conscience, the counterculture," Buchanan writes. "In terms of the old Roosevelt coalition, it is the Republican political base wedded to the Solid South, the farm vote and half the Catholic, ethnic and blue-collar vote of the big cities."

Buchanan does not predict whether the "new majority" will survive after the Nixon presidency. But he contends there is a deep "ideological fault that runs beneath the surface and down the center of the Democratic Party" which separates liberals and "the conservative working class" on such issues as crime, the death penalty, pornography, the military, marijuana,

school prayer, welfare, campus disorders and foreign aid.

"... The Catholic and ethnic and Southern conservative footsoldiers who gave FDR those great landslides are in fundamental disagreement with the isolated, intellectual aristocracy and liberal elite who now set the course of their party," Buchanan writes.

But he says the liberals are still formidable, despite the McGovern defeat, because "they publish most of the nation's books; they dominate the national media and, with rare exceptions, they control the big foundations and the public policy institutes dependent upon them."