

Buchwald: Fight News Suppression

By EDMUND JOHNSON

HOUSTON, Tex. — Humor columnist ART BUCHWALD characterized the Nixon Administration's attacks on the news media as vindictive attempts to suppress future unfavorable reports.

"This business of asking for newspapermen's notes and take-outs from films is a very dangerous thing. And, I think the present Justice Department is not too sympathetic to what the press is doing, mainly because they feel the press should be nicer to the Administration," Buchwald told a recent joint meeting of the Texas Gulf Coast Professional chapter and the Houston chapter of Theta Sigma Phi.

"There's a certain amount of vindictiveness involved in wanting to take your notes and trying to intimidate you. They know they're not going to win, but they think the threat can intimidate you," Buchwald said.

"I think it's the job of everyone of us who has anything to do with communications at all to fight it all the time. It isn't a question of doing it after the story's been written, but it's the



ART BUCHWALD

next story they're trying to keep out of the newspapers."

Buchwald, in another serious vein, said the Attica prison riots were examples of another special interest group dramatizing its protest.

"Unless you dramatize something in this country, nobody ever listens to you. And, that drama has to take place on television and in the streets."

Editor Urges Judicial Reform

By ALEX B. PRITZKER

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — The news media should "take the initiative" to help reform the nation's criminal judicial system which is archaic in its approach to modern court problems, says newspaper editor JOHN SEIGENTHALER of Nashville, Tenn.

The author of "A Search

for Justice," Seigenthaler maintained that less publicized trials frequently are concluded with little justice accomplished.

Seigenthaler, editor of the Nashville *Tennessean* and a member of the national Advisory Commission on Information under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, spoke at a recent meeting of the Cardinal States Professional chapter. Six members were initiated at the meeting.

The speaker, whose journalism honors include the 1962 National Headliner Award, mentioned the trials of James Earl Ray in Memphis, Clay Shaw in New Orleans and Sirhan Sirhan in Los Angeles.

In the Ray case, Seigenthaler observed, testimony indicated that Ray was incapable of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Yet the court sent Ray to prison without questioning him in the witness stand or before a grand jury.

In the Sirhan case the court spent a million dollars yet failed to determine Sirhan's competency to shoot Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Seigenthaler termed District Atty. James Garrison's court tactics in the Shaw case as "absolutely ludicrous" with "far-fetched" evidence permitted to be used in court "by a weak" presiding judge.



JOHN SEIGENTHALER