

# Buchanan Role in Ellsberg Case

Washington

Presidential assistant Patrick J. Buchanan attempted in July, 1971, to dissuade other White House officials from launching the campaign to defame Daniel Ellsberg, a White House memo written at the time shows.

Two months later, in apparent disregard of Buchanan's advice, a White House-sponsored break-in occurred at the offices of Ellsberg's psychiatrist lead-

ing eventually to the indictment of four former White House aides, two of whom have pleaded guilty.

Buchanan, who is still a special consultant to the President, told the Senate Watergate Committee last year that he was called to a meeting with presidential adviser John D. Ehrlichman, White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman and special presidential counsel Charles W. Colson on July 6, 1971. At the meeting, Bu-

chanan testified, he was asked to "oversee" an investigation of Ellsberg.

Buchanan testified he rejected the assignment

In the July 8, 1971, memo in which Ellsberg's name is consistently misspelled as "Ellsburg," Buchanan argued against the very kind of public relations campaign that the White House was planning. The memo was obtained by the Washington Post.

"At the very best," Bu-

chanan wrote, "let us assume we can demonstrate, after three months investigation, that Ellsberg stole the documents, worked hand-in-glove with ex-NSC (National Security Council) types, collaborated with leftist writers Neil Sheehan and Fox Butterfield (New York Times reporters), got together a conspiracy to drop the documents at set times to leftwing papers — what have we accomplished?"

*Washington Post*