

SFChronicle
**Bipartisan
Attack on
House Leaks**

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AP Wirephoto

**PATRICK J. BUCHANAN
'Systematic campaign'**

Committee staff at his hastily called press conference.

What triggered his oral assault on the "nameless, faceless character assassins on the House Judiciary Committee" was a memorandum of his that was published yesterday in the Washington Post, after being published June 11 in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The memo showed that Buchanan in July, 1971, had attempted to dissuade the White House from launching a campaign to defame Daniel Ellsberg, then a defendant in the Pentagon Papers case. Two months later, however, Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office was burglarized in a crime for which four former White House aides were indicted and two have pleaded guilty.

Asked why he had not protested at the time of its publication in the St. Louis newspaper, he said, "Frankly, I hoped it (the story) would sink."

Buchanan said he had no criticism of newspapers that published leaked documents and did not expect the reporters involved to name their own sources.

But, he said, "Who's doing the systematic leaking, why they are doing it, seems to me to be a news story, a major news story, news that the American people have a right to know.

"Since chairman Rodino has not demonstrated any enthusiasm for running down the weasels in his own hen house," Buchanan continued, "the responsibility I

Washington

The House Judiciary Committee came under fresh criticism yesterday from officials of both parties for press leaks and delays in its impeachment investigation of President Nixon.

In an unusual and unplanned collaboration, Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield and White House special consultant Patrick J. Buchanan expressed similar criticisms of the Judiciary Committee.

Mansfield accused the committee of "not facing up to the issue squarely or fairly" and Buchanan said some of its members or staff employees are waging "a systematic campaign to tear down the reputation of the President" and his associates.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino (Dem.-N.J.) called Buchanan's statement "an unfortunate effort to try to divert the committee from pursuing the inquiry based on the evidence We have a job, and we're going to go forward to do the best we can, despite some unfortunate leaks," Rodino said.

Mansfield said the committee is "creating impressions and innuendoes and speculations and rumors which ought to be consid-

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ered only by the committee concerned and the courts."

Mansfield, according to United Press International, blamed the White House for the delays in the Judiciary Committee decision and said the committee itself is responsible for the leaks.

Buchanan, a frequent contributor to Mr. Nixon's speeches and a monitor of press performance for the White House, directed his fire solely at the Judiciary

think for identifying them, for exposing them and their motivation belongs to the press."

Failure to do that, he said, would add to the impression "in the minds of many that the press is . . . less and less a neutral observer in the impeachment enterprise and more and more . . . participants or even collaborators."

This was the second consecutive day in which a White House official had launched a major attack on Judiciary Committee leaks. On Tuesday, White House communications director Ken W. Clauson blamed the leaks on "the dirty tricks division of the Judiciary Committee."

Washington Post