

# G.O.P. BLOC IS HELD IMPEACHMENT KEY

**Buchanan Says Vote of the  
17 on House Judiciary  
Unit Will Be 'Critical'**

By PHILIP SHAFERCOFF  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 19—A key White House aide said today that the vote of the 17-member Republican minority on the 38-member House Judiciary Committee would be "critical" in determining whether or not the full House of Representatives votes to impeach President Nixon.

At a news conference, Patrick J. Buchanan, the President's speechwriter, said that "if an overwhelming majority of the Republicans on the committee vote against impeachment I don't think the President will be impeached in the House."

This view of the impeachment vote has been discussed by a number of commentators before, but it is believed to be the first time a high staff official has commented publicly on White House hopes for a partisan vote on the committee to block impeachment.

The news conference was called by Mr. Buchanan to denounce leaks coming from the Judiciary Committee. It was the latest in a series of such attacks by the White House over the past several weeks.

Mr. Buchanan called in newsmen to comment on an article in today's Washington Post reporting on a memorandum that he wrote in July, 1971, to a former Presidential aide, John D. Ehrlichman, urging that the White House refrain from conducting a campaign to defame Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who released the Pentagon papers.

In his memorandum, Mr. Buchanan advised against attacks on Mr. Ellsberg, which, he said, "while good for the country, would not, it seems to me, be particularly helpful to the President politically."

Apparently his advice was rejected.

### Colson Plea Cited

Today, Mr. Buchanan said he believed that the memorandum had been leaked from the House Judiciary Committee. Noting that another former White House aide, Charles W. Colson, had pleaded guilty to obstructing justice by attempting to

defame Dr. Ellsberg, who was then under indictment, Mr. Buchanan said that "there is no ethical difference and I doubt a legal difference between that felony and the leaks from the committee."

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He characterized the leaks as "nameless, faceless character assassination" of the President, Secretary of State Kissinger and other officials.

He asserted that the "systematic leaking" from the committee was "a major news story that the American people have a right to know."

However, James D. St. Clair, President Nixon's lawyer, seemingly dissociated himself from today's effort by Mr. Buchanan—and yesterday's comments by Ken W. Clawson, the White House Director of Communications—to blame Peter W. Rodino Jr., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for failure to stop the leaks.

Talking to reporters, Mr. St. Clair said, "From my vantage point, which is not Mr. Buchanan's, Chairman Rodino is doing his level best to stop the leaks. It may just not be possible."

Mr. St. Clair emphasized that he did not think Mr. Rodino was being unfair.

Asked if the White House complaints about leaks were intended to discredit the committee, Mr. St. Clair smiled and replied, "I have a sneaking suspicion that the leaking is so pervasive that it is counterproductive."

Mr. Buchanan said he did not oppose leaks in principle because they served a purpose in getting information to the public. But he said the impeachment process was a special case.