

Press Accused Of Bias

Washington

A White House official yesterday accused the television networks, several prominent newspapers, magazines and some individual newsmen of a liberal bias and said they sometimes distort the news against President Nixon.

Bruce Herschensohn, deputy special assistant to Mr. Nixon, specifically attacked CBS, NBC, ABC, the New York Times, the Washington Post and Time and Newsweek magazines, and named CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite, Dan Rather, Roger Mudd, Marvin Kalb and Daniel Schorr as examples of liberal journalists biased against the President.

Herschensohn attacked the media in a news conference — and drew immediate fire from the reporters attending.

"The liberal bias of the press has gotten to everyone and has even affected me," he said.

Herschensohn insisted the idea of an attack on the press was entirely his own and he made these specific accusations:

- Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans were



UPI Telephoto

BRUCE HERCHENSOHN
White House aide

"tried and convicted by the leading papers and the networks" to the extent that even he was "shocked" when they were found innocent after their New York trial.

- The press so thoroughly accustomed the American people to believe that the U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam rejected Mr. Nixon's war policies that he again was "shocked" when the POWs who returned praised the President.

Several of the reporters attending the 45-minute news conference at the Executive Office Building strongly disputed the accu-

sations.

At one point, Herschensohn accused CBS diplomatic correspondent Marvin Kalb of being vague in reporting that high officials were saying that the President was going to Moscow late last month in a weakened position because of the Watergate scandal.

When reporters pointed out that Secretary of State Henry M. Kissinger had insisted that he not be identified as "the high officials" who were being quoted in that statement, Herschensohn quickly offered an apology.

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