

BUCHANAN SCORES THE MEDIA ANEW

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Nixon Aide Addresses Parley
in Capital—Two Others
Defend News Coverage
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WASHINGTON, July 17.—Patrick J. Buchanan, a special assistant to President Nixon, renewed today his attack on "the big media," which he charges dominate the thinking of Americans, citing what he called "enormous, positive and favorable publicity to movements associated with the far left."

Mr. Buchanan listed some of these "far left" movements as "the antiwar movement, the civil rights movement, the consumer movement." His final words were spoken against a background of boos and hisses from the audience of about 700 persons, many of them young, that filled the orchestra section of the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater for "A Critique of the Media."

Appearing with Mr. Buchanan at the discussion of the news media were Richard Harwood, assistant managing editor of The Washington Post; Richard N. Goodwin, a White House aide and speechwriter in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations who is now a senior editor of Rolling Stone; and Thomas Asher, director of the Media Access Project.

Mr. Buchanan, who was an editorial writer on The St. Louis Globe Democrat before joining Mr. Nixon's staff, listed the "big media" as the three major television networks, The New York Times, and the Washington Post Company, which includes the newspaper, a Washington television and radio station, and Newsweek magazine.

'A Particular Bias'

These institutions, he said, "and a small handful of men that control them, have a particular bias, a partisan point of view," which he said meant that control of the news was held by "a handful of like-minded individuals."

Mr. Buchanan said this resulted in under-representation of business, "a particular bias in favor" of government spending with the exception of de-

fense spending, and of "enormous, positive and favorable publicity" for certain movements.

Mr. Buchanan, who said also that he believed "the Government has no business intervening in the private sanctuary of the newsroom," was followed by Mr. Harwood, who said, "There is no set of facts that I could put together that would persuade Pat to love The Washington Post."

Mr. Harwood, noting that there were about 1,700 daily newspapers in this country, said, "They do not speak in one voice. Most of them speak in the voice of the Nixon Administration." He contrasted "Pat's company, which is the Federal Government," employing approximately 17 million Government workers, with the country's approximately 40,000 reporters and editors.

Free Press Guarantee

"The press," Mr. Harwood said, "has no red buttons to push." He conceded that the press was, "like all institutions in this country, imperfect," but said that the First Amendment guaranteed only a free press, not "good newspapers, liberal newspapers, conservative newspapers."

Mr. Goodwin was critical of the concept of "balance" in the news media, which he characterized in this way: "If a group of blacks say they are oppressed, then you quote the Ku Klux Klan as saying they are not."

He was also critical of what he saw as the news media's acceptance of governmental statements, noting Henry Kissinger's announcement in October, 1972, that "peace is at hand" in Vietnam, as an example of "uncritical reporting, especially in The New York Times." He added, "A few members of its Washington bureau have viewed themselves as part of the diplomatic corps of the United States."

Mr. Asher said that the Administration had far more control over the news that reached the public than did the news media. "If he [President Nixon] has something credible to say, he could commandeer the time day in, day out. The reason that he doesn't do it may be that he may have run out of string."

The program was the fifth in a series of National Town Meetings, sponsored by Mobil Oil Company with John Charles Daly as moderator, held in the Kennedy Center Theater this summer.