

[Item N-3]

March 4, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR:

CHUCK COLSON

FROM:

Patrick J. Buchanan

I disagree; the time it seems to me is not ripe for taking on the media on the Laotian operation; the time is when the Laotian operation is a visible accepted success militarily to do a job on the nay-sayers and doom-sayers of the media, who are so entranced with defeat they cannot see the victory in front of them.

At that point, I would recommend moving against the networks again; as many telling blows as can be struck at their credibility and impartiality by 1972 the better -- because they are going to be out after you know who, and by then they should have as little credibility as objective reporters as they merit.

However, the Vice President has mined this vein too often, in my view; we would be better with a Rogers, a Finch or a Rumsfeld handling the assignment. As soon as the Vice President takes it on, too many people will try to tie it to his on-going war with the networks, and assume this is another engagement in a perpetual conflict. In addition, the Vice President's own views should be sought on this matter; we should get his judgment as to whether (a) he wants to do this (b) feels he could be as effective as some other and (c) whether he feels this might intrude upon his current assignment and perhaps make that assignment less effective.