

9-29-1972

## More of Powell's Memo to Business

Jack Anderson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.uchastings.edu/publicity>



Part of the [Judges Commons](#), and the [Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Jack Anderson, *More of Powell's Memo to Business* (1972).

Available at: <http://repository.uchastings.edu/publicity/70>

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Judicial Ethics and the National News Council at UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publicity & News Clippings by an authorized administrator of UC Hastings Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [marcusc@uchastings.edu](mailto:marcusc@uchastings.edu).

SCENE: The bedroom of the NIXON S...  
Clemente home. Mrs. Nixon in a

San Francisco Chronicle

N Fri., Sept. 29, 1972

Merry-Go-Round-

# More of Powell's Memo to Business



Jack Anderson

JUSTICE Lewis F. Powell Jr. was the model of a moderate, reasonable, judicious legalist during his Senate confirmation hearings last November.

Even before his appearance, the FBI report on him was so favorable that Senate Judiciary Chairman James Eastland, (Dem.-Miss.), didn't wait to hear the testimony. He opened the hearings with the statement:

"Mr. Powell, I have read the FBI files on you; it was a full field investigation. I certainly think you are highly qualified and I am going to vote to confirm you."

The FBI, however, had missed — and the Senators, therefore, were unaware of — a confidential document that Powell drafted two months before his Supreme Court appointment. It was a blueprint for an assault by big business on its critics.

★ ★ ★

HIS VIEWS were so militant that it raises a question about his fitness to decide any case involving business interests.

In yesterday's column, we published excerpts from Powell's confidential, 33-page memo, which is now being circulated among top corporate executives by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Here are additional highlights:

"The American economic system is under broad attack..." Powell wrote passionately, from "the Communists, new leftists and other revolutionaries" as well as from "perfectly respectable elements

of society." He identified consumer crusader Ralph Nader as "perhaps the single most effective antagonist of American business."

Having identified the enemies, Powell appealed: "The time has come — indeed, it is long overdue — for the wisdom, ingenuity and resources of American business to be marshaled against those who would destroy it."

He complained that "the enterprise system tolerates, if not participates in, its own destruction." He noted that "most of the media, including the national TV systems, are owned and theoretically controlled by corporations which depend upon profits and the enterprise system to survive."

★ ★ ★

EMPHASIZING the "predominant role" of television in "shaping the thinking, attitudes and emotions of our people," he boldly advocated:

"The national television networks should be monitored in the same way that textbooks should be kept under constant surveillance. This applies not merely to so-called educational programs, such as 'Selling of the Pentagon,' but to the daily 'news analysis' which so often includes the most insidious type of criticism of the enterprise system..."

The "fundamental premise of this paper," he concluded, was to warn "that business and the enterprise system are in deep trouble and the hour is late."

Dear Abby