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Hatcher Denies News Managed

Andrew T. Hatcher, assistant press secretary at the White House, yesterday denied "news management" charges made against the Kennedy administration.

In an address here, Hatcher defined "news management" as "an attempt by government, deliberately and with malice aforethought, to create an image of



Andrew T. Hatcher
McNamara would get votes

events in Washington that is not a fact."

"This has never been the case," he said.

In support of his statement, Hatcher said "not a single working newspaperman" has testified to "news management" in hearings conducted by the Moss committee. This was a reference to the freedom-of-information committee headed by John E. Moss, D-Calif.

HATCHER also said a national television network "could not find a single working reporter" who would cite a "news management" case for a recent program on that subject.

In an address at the annual meeting of Associated Church Press, he said the administration was noted for its "news accessibility."

He mentioned the inauguration of foreign policy briefings for news media in Washington and other major cities, the White House luncheons with publishers, the President's "live" televised news conferences "with no editing," the President's Izvestia interview in January, 1962, and the regional White House conferences.

IN A question-and-answer period, he was asked if he could supply information on a report that Cardinal Bea, head of the Roman Catholic Secretariat for Promotion of Christian Unity had brought the administration a message from the Pope on the "Vatican's new stance in relation to Russia."

"No, I can't," he said. "I wasn't aware of that at all."

A participant in the ACP meeting asked for comment on the participant's view that the Democratic Party would "never again" select a non-Roman Catholic as a presidential candidate.

"I can't see why they would adopt a policy like that," Hatcher said. "I think we have many Protestants who are capable of running for the presidency."

HATCHER SAID he thought Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense, "would get many votes" if he chose to run.

Asked if there was "a good relation" between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Department, he replied that he had "detected no problems."

He said no "firmed-up" schedule had been made for the May 18 Nashville visit of President John F. Kennedy. "I don't know whether Mrs. Kennedy will accompany her husband," he added.

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