

Buzhardt Set To Quit Soon

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Ford yesterday abruptly named his own man to head the White House legal staff after the Nixon legal staff's ruling that all of the former President's tape recordings are his own personal property.

President Ford chose his former law partner, Philip A. Buchen, a 58-year-old graduate of the University of Michigan law school, to be "counsel in charge of all White House legal matters," press secretary J. F. terHorst announced.

White House counsel J. Fred Buzhardt will resign soon, terHorst said.

The President decided, it was learned later, that he could no longer wait to put his own man in charge of the legal office, but Mr. Ford does not intend to overrule the decision that the tapes are the personal property of the former President.

Mr. Ford had intended to wait until he received the report of his task force on reorganization of the White House staff before making personnel changes.

But he was unhappy with the way the decision regarding ownership of the tapes was made and announced. Former counsel James D. St. Clair and Buzhardt concluded just before St. Clair left for his Boston home that the tapes were Mr. Nixon's personal property.

Mr. Ford did not dissent from the ruling when he was informed of it, for the papers of Presidents have traditionally belonged to them after they left office.

The President felt that his aides, particularly the legal counsel, should be serving the Ford administration's interest at all times and not be concentrating on the interests of "a private citizen named Nixon," one source said.

Meanwhile, the decision

of the two White House lawyers that the tape recordings and documents are Mr. Nixon's personal property was challenged by a federal judge in Minnesota.

U.S. District Court Judge Fred Nichol ordered transfer of those properties to the former President blocked on grounds they might be needed in the Wounded Knee trial.

Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office announced that three of Jaworski's representatives met with Buzhardt to discuss the tapes and agreed that "none of the files will be moved pending further discussion. The special prosecutor's of-

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office is satisfied with the arrangements."

TerHorst emphasized that the tapes remain in the custody of the Secret Service

TerHorst confirmed a Washington Post report that the President has asked Alexander M. Haig Jr. to remain as White House staff chief "for the duration."

Some Ford advisers had urged the replacement of Haig as the President moves to put his imprint on the administration, but the two men have worked well together and the President decided that he wanted Haig to continue on the job.

In addition to naming Buchen, the President presided at the swearing-in of John O. Marsh, a former Democratic congressman from Virginia, as counselor, the same title he gave Robert T. Hartmann, a former Washington newsman who was chief aide when Mr. Ford was a congressman and when he was Vice President.

Marsh, 47, is a man of "understanding, ability and personality," the President said at the ceremony. He recalled that he once campaigned against Marsh in Virginia.

"We had a good man, but he beat us," Mr. Ford said. Later, when they served in the House together, they became close friends.

The President referred to

Marsh as a Democrat turned independent. Early this year, Marsh left his job as the Defense Department's chief liaison officer with Congress to join Vice President Ford's staff. He will work on defense and congressional relations matters.

Buchen and the President formed a law partnership in Grand Rapids, Mich., just before World War II. After the war, they joined an established firm there.

Buchen has been called Mr. Ford's closest personal adviser. When Mr. Ford was Vice President, Buchen was director of the right of privacy committee which the Vice President headed.

In another busy day, crowded with visitors, the President sent his second veto message to Congress, rejecting a measure providing \$47 million for veterinary research on the grounds that it would be inflationary.

The President was quoted by one visitor as saying the veto would only save "peanuts" but that he felt it was essential for him to hold the line against additional spending at every opportunity.

At a meeting with a delegation of county officials, who urged his support of a \$20 billion program of federal aid to the cities for public transportation, the President said he would veto the measure if enacted in its present form.

The Nixon budget proposal called for an authorization of \$10 billion, and Mr. Ford said he would accept a compromise of \$11 billion, terHorst said.

The meeting with the leaders of the National Association of County Officials followed meetings Wednesday with governors and mayors.

The President held a long meeting with his chief economic advisers, but there was no official word on the results of the discussion.

Attending the meeting were Chairman Arthur F. Burns of the Federal Reserve Board, Chairman Herbert Stein of the Council of Economic Advisers, Director Roy L. Ash of the Office of Management and Budget, Secretary of the Treasury William E. Simon, counselor Kenneth Rush and advisers L. William Seidman and William Scranton.