

## Called Too High for Officials

# Moral Standards Hit

HILTON HEAD, S.C., have been better off if Nixon had not been forced to resign. March 10 (AP)—Americans demand too much moral accountability of their public officials, according to J. Fred Buzhardt, a key figure in former President Nixon's Watergate defense.

1702 2/11/75

“Would you rather have a competent scoundrel or an honest boob in office?” asked Buzhardt in an interview with the Charlotte Observer.

“You can make a strong argument that for a President in this day and time you don't want a babe in the woods. He's got to deal with some pretty rough-and-tumble people.”

Buzhardt, who was primary attorney for Nixon in the Watergate affair until he suffered a heart attack last summer, said the country would

He said he does not consider President Ford a “babe in the woods,” however.

The public and the media have set an unrealistic moral standard for government, resulting in a lack of public confidence, Buzhardt said.