

## THE PRESIDENT'S TWO RIGHT-HAND MEN

This has been a hellish year for Richard Nixon. Under siege for the responsibility or irresponsibility of his administration, watching on all sides the human wreckage caused by the Watergate fallout, recalcitrant in protecting so many young, impressionable men from Bob Haldeman's disease, "DED" (dissent equals disloyalty), named by the grand jury as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Watergate coverup, the President has tried to stonewall, delay, deny, impede, and prolong the legal process involving impeachment.

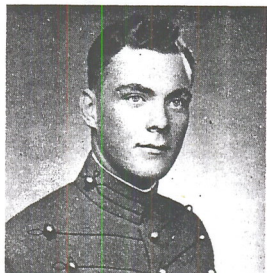
History will record two of his most loyal aides in the time of his most desperate need as Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., his White House chief of staff, and Joseph Fred Buzhardt Jr., his White House counsel.

Last month Buzhardt, after working 18 hours a day in the President's defense, was stricken with a heart attack while Nixon and Haig were abroad in Cairo. Buzhardt, 50, who knows more about the President's tapes than almost anyone else except Bob Haldeman, will be out of the President's defensive lineup for at least another month while, hopefully, rest repairs his damaged heart.

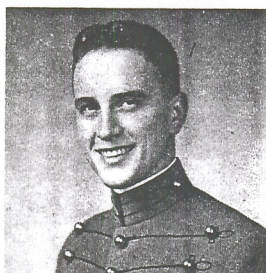
"Iron man" Haig, however, considered by many an alternate U.S. President, remains in the brunt-bearing front lines, bruised and weary, but still staunch and steadfast in his determination to save Nixon.

Not too many people know it, but Haig and Buzhardt were at West Point to-

## Together at West Point and at the White House



CADET ALEXANDER HAIG JR., CLASS OF '47



CADET J. FRED BUZHARDT JR., CLASS OF '46



WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF HAIG



PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL BUZHARDT

gether. Buzhardt, from McCormick, S.C., was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1946, rated academically 510 in a class of 875. Haig, who will be 50 in December this year, was graduated from the Point in 1947, ranked 214 in a class of 310.

Buzhardt resigned his commission to become a lawyer, then Strom Thurmond's administrative aide, and subsequently a Pentagon and White House

counsel. Haig stayed in the service to retire as a general and become Nixon's No. 1 ace of all trades, tasks, missions, maneuvers.

Basically conservative, Buzhardt and Haig have not changed in nature, personality, and attitude since their days as West Point cadets. Haig, for example, was a versatile, extroverted athlete who played football, basketball, handball, boxed, and was an outstanding member of

the debating society, and sang in the Catholic choir for three years.

Buzhardt was introverted, polite, shy, and taught Sunday school for three years.

Howitzer, the West Point yearbook, says of Joseph Fred Buzhardt Jr., "Buzz was famous from beast-barrack days for the spot of white hair on the back of his head. With two college years and ROTC behind him, Buzz came up from his Southern home to USMA College (an acronym for United States Military Academy) to try his luck. Easy to make friends with, Buzz had little trouble passing his years at the Point except with the Map Department and the T.D. (Tactics Department). Not a real goat (goat is the West Point equivalent of last in the class), he was still one of the boys who had his academic troubles. We are sure the service will profit by his membership."

Of Haig, Howitzer says: "From the liberal atmosphere of the Notre Dame campus to the dominated life of a West Point plebe proved to be a step tinged with reluctance to Alex. As ever, unchanged, he has glided through the years with a gay sincerity that won him an abundance of loyal friends. His pleasures lean toward the athletic and social. Consequently, he has developed a skill in both. Strong convictions and even stronger ambitions mingled with a deep understanding of his fellow-soldier should form a 'warrior's chariot' to carry Alex to the top."

If Richard Nixon survives his administration, his debt of gratitude to West Pointers Haig and Buzhardt should be endless and incalculable.