

# Buzhardt Still Heads Nixon Team

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The White House said yesterday that J. Fred Buzhardt remains in charge of the Watergate defense although changes are being made in the counsel's office.

Deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren first said that Buzhardt "still is working" in the office, but at the end of his briefing, after receiving a written note, he apologized and said that Buzhardt is in charge.

Warren said he had been away from the White House Thursday because of illness and that he had made a mistake in suggesting that Buzhardt was not head of the Watergate defense.

Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, briefing newsmen Thursday in Warren's absence, had made a lukewarm appraisal of Buzhardt and raised doubts that he continued to have the President's full confidence.

Warren declined to say who sent the note directing him to correct the impression he had left that Buzhardt was no longer in charge of the President's legal defense. But it was assumed that it came from

See **PRESIDENT**, A6, Col. 1

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**PRESIDENT**, From A1

Ziegler, who has facilities in his office or listening to the briefing-room questions and answers.

Warren also used the briefing to denounce Rufus Edmisten, deputy chief counsel of the Senate Watergate committee, who had told a college audience Thursday in Lynchburg, Va., that the White House re-recorded on one tape the subpoenaed tapes.

Warren denied that any new recordings were made and said that when Mr. Nixon listened to the original tapes he used earphones. With earphones, the taping system still in use at the time could not have picked up the playing of the tapes.

Edmisten was "winging it or hadn't done his homework," Warren said. "To say there is a tape of all the President listened to is misleading."

Told of Warren's comment, Edmisten said: "I think I had misinformation that there was a tape made of the tapes the President had listened to. If I made a mistake, I'm sorry."

Warren said that Leonard Garment, acting counsel to the President, would no longer work directly on Watergate matters but on general White House legal work.

Referring to a broadcast report that Charles Alan Wright had quit as a White House consultant, Warren said, "He's on call and is available. I've talked to him several times recently. He's called me several times." He quoted Wright as saying he had denied the broadcast report before it was made.

Warren supplied the following list of staff in the counsel's office:

Garment, acting counsel; Buzhardt, special counsel; Fred F. Fielding, deputy counsel; and the following staff assistants: Dudley Chapman, Douglas M. Parker, Robert Andrews, Richard Alan Hauser, Kenneth Gregory Haynes and George Paul Williams.

Listed as consultants, in addition to Wright, are Samuel J. Powers Jr. and Thomas P. Marinis Jr.

"The following persons have assisted the White House counsel's office periodically, without compensation," the statement said: H. Chapman Rose, Kenneth W. Gemmill and John J. Sullivan.

Warren said that Sullivan had volunteered to help "beef up" the legal staff and would work in an administrative way in recruiting legal talent. He is resigning from the Illinois Court of Appeals, to which he was appointed in April by the state supreme court, to assist the President.

Sullivan served in the Navy with Mr. Nixon and has been a friend since. He is a Democrat who was appointed to the court with the approval of the Daley Democratic organization.

A successful trial lawyer who is known as a skilled litigator, Sullivan has specialized in representing plaintiffs in personal injury cases. He is a former chairman and speaker of the Chicago Bar Association and a former member of the Illinois Supreme Court's committee on judicial ethics.

Gemmill, senior partner in Dechert, Price & Rhoads, is a leading Philadelphia law firm, is a corporate lawyer who has represented Penn Central railroad and participated in the duPont divestiture of General Motors stock.

Gemmill played a leading role in the 1954 revision of the Internal Revenue Code. He has served in the Treasury Department and in the Internal Revenue Service as acting chief counsel. He has been a leading Republican fund-raiser.

Rose is a member of the Cleveland-based firm of Reavis, Pogue, Neal & Rose. He was assistant secretary of the treasury from 1953 to 1955 and under secretary in 1955 and 1956.