

Ford Picks His Counsel

Washington

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

The President 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 Jerald F. terHorst announced.

(United Press reported that Mr. Ford had asked for Buzhardt's resignation.)

Mr. Ford 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 leave office.

Buzhardt and St. Clair had ruled Wednesday that the Nixon materials not yet subpoenaed and or made public were his own, presumably to dispose of as he wished.

That announcement, channeled through the White House press office, erroneously said the decision had the endorsement of Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski's office and the Justice Department.

An announcement yesterday by Jaworski's office in-

dicated that had not been the case, and White House officials suggested privately that Mr. Ford had been angered by "all this revival of the tapes issue."

He ordered White House aides to consult with Jaworski and the ensuing statement, issued by Jaworski's office, said:

"Representatives of the White House and the special prosecutor met today to discuss the status of the tapes and documents of the administration of former President Nixon.

"It has been agreed that none of the files will be moved, pending further discussion and the special prosecutor's office is satisfied with these arrangements."

United Press said that White House sources indicated Mr. Ford became angry when he learned that

Wednesday's ruling on the ownership of the tapes did not in fact have Jaworski's approval.

The sources said Ford fretted that his administration "was becoming tarnished" by the tapes issue and so, "he put his foot down and said 'I'm not going to have it.'"

Mr. Ford then instructed White House chief of staff Alexander M. Haig to get Buzhardt's resignation, they said, because he could no longer rely for legal advice on "Watergate holdovers who are just not believable anymore."

Washington Post

Wreckage Search Agana, Guam

U.S. Navy units continued their efforts yesterday to find missing portions of a 715-foot ship.

Associated Press