

# Nixon Adviser Claims Privilege

Washington

Presidential counsel J. Fred Buzhardt invoked executive privilege, national security and the attorney-client privilege to avoid answering some of the hundreds of questions asked him yesterday by the Senate Watergate committee.

Buzhardt and Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (Rep.-Conn.), who conducted the interrogation, said, however, that the President's lawyer answered most questions in a session which focused on his knowledge of the use of a \$100,000 payment from billionaire Howard Hughes.

It was Buzhardt's second appearance before the committee which is pursuing its investigation of the cash payments made in 1969 and 1970 to C. G. (Bebe) Rebozo, President Nixon's close personal friend.

Neither Weicker nor Buzhardt would tell reporters which questions Buzhardt refused to answer.

The witness said he did talk about the \$100,000 payment and told reporters it was "absolutely not correct" that he was the source of the story that Rose Mary Woods, the President's personal secretary, received part of the \$100,000 payment, either as a loan or as a gift.

Weicker would not characterize Buzhardt's testimony but indicated not much new information was gained.

After Buzhardt's first appearance last month sources close to the committee characterized his testimony as "an incredible performance" and said: "He



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J. FRED BUZHARDT  
A Nixon lawyer

couldn't remember what happened 12 hours before."

Last week Alexander Haig, the President's chief of staff, produced a letter from the President ordering him to invoke executive privilege in refusing to answer all questions put to him by the committee.

A spokesman for Weicker said the senator favors giving Haig one more chance to testify voluntarily but will be willing to cite him for contempt of Congress if he refuses.

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