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J. Fred Buzhardt

Pentagon Lawyer Moves Up

J. FRED BUZHARDT
... new Navy aide

[illegible] graduate [illegible] the few [illegible] level defense of [illegible] been having a [illegible] slow time filling [illegible] of key jobs—and his departure may make matters worse at least for a while.

Buzhardt's White House job is described as interim, and he will retain his Defense Department title. But Pentagon officials were not certain that Buzhardt would in fact return to the Defense Department.

[illegible] former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird's choice to become a second Deputy Secretary of Defense, but the proposal is known to have met some resistence from the current principal deputy, William P. Clements.

Buzhardt, while an aide to Sen. Thurmond specializing in military affairs, gained a reputation as one of the few who managed to penetrate the Pentagon curtain and prepare searching questions for his senator.

He is low-key, almost philosophical in manner and finds it personally fascinating to dissect the government machinery. [illegible] with [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] his [illegible] the Senate [illegible] the best [illegible] biggest, so to [illegible] Watergate [illegible] while the Pentagon [illegible] lawyer [illegible] second [illegible] job was [illegible] on the [illegible] Nixon gained a new Secretary of Defense [illegible] yesterday [illegible] the CIA, Dr. James R. Schlesinger, and Buzhardt—without [illegible] former Deputy Defense Secretary David Packard [illegible] a part-time special [illegible] job.

Schlesinger's impending movement to the Pentagon was generally well received by Pentagon officials, though some said privately they were hoping that former Texas governor John Connally would get the job, while a few others wondered whether Schlesinger will come swooping through [illegible] with the same sort of house-cleaning broom he administered during his short tour as CIA director.

Schlesinger, in effect will start with a clean slate at the Pentagon because Richardson was only at the top for three months and little was done to change the course of Defense policy or weapons programs in that time.

During his days within the White House's Office of Management and budget in 1969 and 1970, Schlesinger was frequently pictured as in private agreement with Packard, then Pentagon budget officer, that defense spending could be held below the actual figures that rounded up in the President's budget if the Pentagon were better managed. The ex-CIA chief, however, is generally regarded as taking a conservative view on defense matters.

Packard, the California electronic millionaire who was the White House's leading choice for the top Pentagon job, said yesterday he had turned down the job for "personal reasons."

Chatting with newsmen at the Pentagon yesterday, Packard added that Mr. Nixon has "my complete confidence and full support, particularly in these troubled times."

After leaving the Pentagon in 1971, Packard ran the fund-raising campaign for President Nixon's re-election in the San Francisco area. Packard, however, ran the only fund-raising effort that was independent of the fund-raising efforts being run by former Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans.

Packard said the principal reason he couldn't take the Pentagon job now involves the problem of his huge holdings in the company he helped found, Hewlett-Packard, and which he did not want to disrupt. The tax laws which enabled him to set up a trust fund for those holdings in 1969 have been changed.

As a consultant, Packard said he might try to help defend the defense budget on Capitol Hill (though questions of conflict of interest could be raised) and in particular some of the major programs he helped develop such as the B-1 bomber and Trident submarine programs.