

# Nixon 'Disappointed' by Reaction

## Washington

President Nixon is disappointed at negative reaction to his proposal for making portions of the Watergate tapes available to the courts and congress, White House special counsel J. Fred Buzhardt Jr. said yesterday.

Buzhardt, who has been closely involved in developing the White House legal strategy on Watergate, said he himself was surprised at criticism of the plan.

"I expected a huge sigh of relief," Buzhardt said. "Here we had the President pick up the initiative and

himself make a major concession and accommodation."

Buzhardt blamed much of the early criticism on the fact that the plan is "difficult to explain."

But he predicted that "when it's clearly understood, when Congress gets a handle on it, they are going to support it."

The outbreak of the Middle East war was one reason for the shift in strategy, Buzhardt said. But another, he said, "was that it had become apparent that this thing was so blown up that he (Mr. Nixon) would still have to do something even if

he won in the Supreme Court.

"It had become such a cause celebre over a few damn pieces of celluloid . . . It had gotten out of proportion."

Buzhardt said that last Monday the President decided to let a third party listen to the tapes, which Buzhardt said was moving "a long, long way in terms of a concession."

Asked about reports that the decision had been made last Monday to fire Special Watergate Prosecutor Archi-

bald Cox, Buzhardt said: "I totally disagree with that." Instead, Buzhardt said, the White House had tried to reach a compromise agreement with Cox.

Buzhardt said that he had expected that Cox "would go along with the President's instructions."

Buzhardt promised that the Watergate criminal investigations will continue, without Cox, under the supervision of the acting attorney general.

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