

Ailing Buzhardt Unable to Aid Nixon Legal Defense for 3 Months

White House sources said yesterday that presidential counsel J. Fred Buzhardt will be out of action for at least three months as a result of a heart attack—effectively removing him from President Nixon's legal defense team.

Buzhardt, 50, was taken to Fairfax Hospital's coronary care unit early Wednesday morning suffering from chest pains. Doctors yesterday confirmed that he had suffered a heart attack that they said was "of intermediate degree."

He was reported in serious condition yesterday, but he was "alert, oriented and suffering no pain."

The hospital said he will remain in the coronary care unit at least until Monday. If his condition improves, he will most likely be moved to a progressive coronary care unit for another three days.

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A White House source said that Buzhardt will have to remain in the hospital for another two to three weeks, and then will have six to eight

weeks of recuperation at home.

Buzhardt is a key figure in the legal defense of the President from impeachment and Watergate cover-up allegations. He is the keeper of the presidential tapes, the one man who has listened to all of them and edited all the transcripts that Mr. Nixon has released.

James D. St. Clair, who is running the President's legal defense team, said that other lawyers will take over Buzhardt's assignments.