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# Ford Names Buchen, Ex-Law Partner, To Head Legal Staff as Buzhardt Quits

By MARJORIE HUNTER  
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WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 — President Ford today chose Philip W. Buchen, his former law partner, as his counsel in charge of all legal matters.

Mr. Buchen's appointment came as the White House announced the resignation of J. Fred Buzhardt Jr., the last of former President Nixon's Watergate attorneys, from the Presidential legal staff.

Mr. Nixon's other chief Watergate attorney, James D. St. Clair, left the White House staff yesterday to return to private practice in Boston.

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Buzhardt and Mr. St. Clair advised Mr. Ford that tape recordings of Mr. Nixon's personal conversations were the property of the former President.

The assertion by Mr. Buzhardt and Mr. St. Clair, the White House said, was a "formal," although unwritten, opinion by the two men who coordinated Mr. Nixon's Watergate defense while he was President.

### Briefing Sought

Shortly after the tapes decision was announced yesterday, J. F. terHorst, Mr. Ford's press secretary, went to the legal office of the White House to ask that someone there brief the press on the situation.

Mr. terHorst said today that someone in the legal office, whom he refused to identify, had declined to authorize a briefing.

Asked today if he felt there was a connection between the refusal of the legal office to explain the tapes decision and President Ford's appointment of a new counsel, Mr. terHorst replied, "I know of no connection. But I can't give you any guidance on that."

Mr. terHorst said, "The President felt it was important that his own counsel immediately take over affairs of the legal office."

Later today, the office of the special Watergate prosecutor, Leon Jaworski, issued the following statement:

"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 discussions and the special prosecutor's office is satisfied with these arrangements."

The White House declined to say which of its representatives met with Mr. Jaworski today. It also could not be ascertained



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Philip W. Buchen

whether Mr. Buchen, in his new role as counsel, had any role in arranging the meeting.

Mr. terHorst said that Mr. Buzhardt would remain at the White House for a short time "during this transition period," but that Mr. Buchen would take charge of all legal matters immediately.

### Transition Adviser

Mr. Buchen, 58 years old, is working with the team that is studying the problems of transition between the Nixon and Ford Administrations. He is one of Mr. Ford's closest friends; the two men were law partners in Grand Rapids, Mich., before World War II and later practiced law together in a larger firm in that city after the war.

Tall, white-haired and soft-spoken, Mr. Buchen is regarded as the chief intellectual among Mr. Ford's present advisers. He is a native of Wisconsin and received his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Mr. Buchen and Mr. Ford first met in the mid-nineteen-thirties when Mr. Ford, at that time a law student at Yale University, took some summer law courses at the University of Michigan. The two men roomed together.

Mr. Buzhardt's decision to leave the Presidential staff was described by White House spokesmen today as "not hasty." It was noted that he suffered a heart attack several months ago and is still not in good health.

He was a former counsel at the Defense Department.

Leonard Garment, who once held the title of counsel to the President, is still on the White

House staff as a special assistant.

The job of counsel was also once held in the Nixon Administration by John W. Dean 3d, who became the former President's principal accuser in the Watergate scandal. He recently was sentenced to one to four years in prison for his role in the Watergate cover up.

Mr. Buchen said this morning, that he was not certain whether he would be asked to join the White House staff.

"Jerry knows I'll do anything for him he wants," he said. "I'm on this transition team, but we haven't discussed anything else."

President Ford also announced today the appointment of Rear Ad. William M. Lukash, 43, as his personal White House physician. Dr. Lukash, who has been an assistant physician at the White House, succeeds Maj. Gen. Walter Tkach, who was personal physician to former President Nixon.

### Move to San Clemente

Dr. Tkach is now on duty with Mr. Nixon at San Clemente, Calif.

Dr. Lukash said today that his new patient, President Ford, was in excellent health and had "no medical problems whatsoever." He said that the new President had "an informal, candid way about him" that contributed to his good health.

Dr. Lukas is a specialist in gastroenterology and internal medicine.

Other White House developments today included the following:

¶ A White House spokesman reiterated that President Ford had urged Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. to stay on as his chief of staff "for the duration."

¶ Mrs. Ford named Mrs. Nancy Howe, wife of an Army officer, as her personal secretary. Mrs. Howe was on the staff of the White House Historical Commission before joining Mrs. Ford's staff several months ago to handle social and press matters.

¶ John O. Marsh Jr., a former Democratic member of the House from Virginia, was sworn in today in the Oval Office as a counselor to the President.

Mr. Marsh, now an independent, was on Mr. Ford's Vice-Presidential staff and is expected to work on a number of matters, including Congressional relations.