

Prouty Denies Changing Story

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SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — L. Fletcher Prouty, the man who identified former presidential aide Alexander Butterfield as a CIA contact at the White House, concedes he may have been wrong, the Springfield Daily News says.

However, in Washington, Prouty said today he was misquoted by the Springfield reporter. Prouty said that "I totally stand by my original story." He said the reporter is "absolutely, totally wrong."

Prouty, a retired Air Force colonel, was quoted in the Daily News interview yesterday as saying, "They may have told me the wrong name to cover up the real informer."

Last week Prouty told the staff of the House select intelligence committee that he had been told by Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt that Butterfield, then a White House aide working just outside Richard Nixon's Oval Office, was the CIA contact.

Prouty added that he believed the administration knew that Butterfield served as liason for the intelligence agency whenever cooperation was needed with the White House.

Butterfield, in his television statement, which he repeated yesterday for the wire services, hinted that he might file a libel suit against Prouty.

"Those serious allegations are altogether false," he said. "Moreover, they are defamatory. . . . Mr. Fletcher Prouty's allegation is tantamount to a charge of perjury. The damage to my reputation has been done."