

29 July 1973

HW:
We found a prior reference to Butterfield which may or may not have some meaning. Jack Anderson column for 8May1973 (you sent us an excerpt from the Frederick Post which the WX Post had cut out) says that when the FBI discovered Hunt was involved in Watergate, ~~xxx~~ agent John Rule phoned Butterfield for an explanation, since "our sources" said he was the WH liaison man with the CIA. An FBI memo says Butterfield answered that "Hunt was used ...on highly sensitive, confidential matters about nine months ago [presumably before Watergate, that is]." Two graphs down Anderson adds this even more interesting "Footnote: Butterfield told my associate Joseph Spear that he doesn't remember being called by the FBI. He had 'security responsibility' at the White House, he said, but was 'not aware' that he was^a designated CIA liaison official."

I find it difficult to believe that any WH official who was assigned to liaison with an outfit like the CIA would not be aware of it, and that any denial, if justified, wouldn't be ~~strongly~~ stronger than "not aware."

Although there is much circumstantial evidence to the contrary, we can't abandon our feeling that Butterfield disclosed the tapes only after he was told to do so.

jdw *Jaw*