

11 May 75

Butterfield (Nixon) - "Alexander Butterfield ... said [today in a telephone interview] he believes former President Nixon had prior knowledge of the first Watergate break-in. 'To have done something that big, he had to have given the OK. .... Once they had permission to do what they first did, then that was considered tacit approval to go back again.'

....  
"Butterfield ... said he had no inside knowledge that Mr. Nixon was aware of the break-in plans. 'That is strictly a personal opinion based on a damn clear knowledge of the system - the way Nixon operated. .... After everything that has come out, people who think he didn't know about everything, they must not get him.' ....

"Butterfield said ... that he has had no communication with Mr. Nixon since the former president's resignation. 'I'm sure he hates me as much as anyone can,' Butterfield said. He said he feels sorry for Mr. Nixon's family, 'but I don't feel awful about the president's resignation. Not at all.'

"Butterfield said there was no question that his resignation from the FAA was forced. 'The White House acts as though it was voluntary, but I was asked to leave - and quickly,' he said."

SPC 12 May 75 [AP] AP wire copy 11 May 75; 12 May 75

Nixon (Butterfield) - See entry, Butterfield  
Butterfield (resignation from FAA) - " " (Nixon)

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Ⓐ - "Butterfield said he now feels free to express the opinion because he has left the government. .... 'I agreed with President Ford that we should put Watergate behind us,' said Butterfield. 'As a government official, I did not talk about it. I respected his plea.'"

AP wire copy, 12 May 75

- Butterfield gave this intv after article about him appeared in People magazine. Entry 13 May 75.

Ⓑ - See entry 10 Oct 76, Butterfield, intv'd by Mike Wallace .... (Butterfield believes he was fired as a result of a "Nixon mandate," relayed through Haig to Ford.)

Ⓒ - See entry 13 May 75, Butterfield "apology." Butterfield's apology is to the Nixon family; he does not mention Nixon himself.