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**RODINO UNIT HEARS  
NIXON INTERVENED  
IN OFFICE DETAILS**

Testimony Leads Some on  
Panel to Think President  
Knew About Cover-Up

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 2—The House Judiciary Committee reportedly heard today testimony that President Nixon paid close attention not only to grave policy matters but also to the most minute details of White House business.

The testimony came from Alexander P. Butterfield, staff secretary at the White House in Mr. Nixon's first term, who was the first witness to appear before the panel since the hearings on Mr. Nixon's possible impeachment began May 9.

The hearings were closed to the public, and the accounts of the testimony and the interpretations given it may have been colored by the predilections of the committee members.

**Republicans Disagree**

Some Democrats who are inclined toward impeachment concluded that the President had been so concerned about what went on around him that he must have known that his staff was trying to cover up the facts of the Watergate burglary and that it was involved in other improprieties.

But Republican members, after hearing Mr. Butterfield's testimony, said that it was wrong to draw such an inference. They said it was entirely possible that the President's former chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, had shielded him from the facts.

Meanwhile, in Federal District Court here, David R. Young Jr., another former White House aide, testified that he believed John D. Ehrlichman, a former top adviser to the President, had specifically authorized "the examination" of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatric records in 1971 without the knowledge or consent of Dr. Ellsberg's former psychiatrist. [Page 12.]

Mr. Butterfield, who is now head of the Federal Aviation Administration, was said to have been unable to tie Mr. Nixon directly to the Watergate case or any other wrongdoing,

but had not been called before the Judiciary Committee to testify about those matters.

**An Insider's Viewpoint**

Rather, he was asked to provide an insider's view of the day-to-day workings of the White House chain of command, and, by all accounts, he did so.

Mr. Butterfield was extensively questioned by the special impeachment counsel, John M. Doar, and the Republican counsel, Albert E. Jenner Jr., as well as by Mr. Nixon's defense attorney, James D. St. Clair. Some committee members also posed direct questions, although most sub-

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mitted their questions in writing to the committee counsel.

Information, Mr. Butterfield reportedly said, flowed from subordinates through Mr. Haldeman to Mr. Nixon. Conversely, he said, order flowed from the President through Mr. Haldeman to other aides.

Committee members said they had been told that, while Mr. Haldeman had served as a buffer between Mr. Nixon and the rest of his staff, the President himself had been in complete command of virtually all operation.

He was "a man who paid enormous attention to detail, a man whose relaxation was his work," said Representative Hamilton Fish Jr., a Republican from upstate New York who says he is undecided whether to vote for impeachment.

Asked for examples of the kinds of detail the President kept tabs on, Mr. Fish told reporters: "The table setting in the dining room, approving a gift for certain guests, how his office was decorated and the Rose Garden."

**'That's the Big Question'**

Mr. Fish was asked if it was possible that Mr. Nixon would not have known of alleged crimes committed by his subordinates.

"Oh, yes, sure, if Haldeman didn't tell him," Mr. Fish replied.

Mr. Fish was then asked if it was likely that Mr. Haldeman would not have told Mr. Nixon.

"The two men spent so much time with each other each day," Mr. Fish responded, his voice trailing off. Then he added, "That's the big question."

Mr. Haldeman has been indicted for conspiring to obstruct justice in the Watergate case and for perjury before the Senate Watergate committee.

Mr. Nixon was named by the grand jury as a co-conspirator in the case but was not indicted.

Representative Edward Mez-

vinsky, Democrat of Iowa, who is expected to vote for impeachment, said that he had got the impression from Mr. Butterfield's testimony that "the President ran the operation" in the White House.

**'Very Much Aware'**

Asked whether Mr. Haldeman and others had been permitted to act independently, Mr. Mezvinsky answered:

"You have a President who seems very much aware of what was happening. He was very much aware of what Mr. Haldeman was doing and wanted to be kept aware of what went on in the White House."

Mr. Mezvinsky said, however, that Mr. Butterfield was not in a position to say whether the normal procedures had been followed in the Watergate case.

Representative Edward Hutchinson of Michigan, the committee's ranking Republican, who is a staunch supporter of the President, said that he "got the impression that [the President] probably didn't know anything that Mr. Haldeman didn't deliver to him."

Another senior Republican, Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, who is reportedly wavering on the question of impeachment, reported that Mr. Butterfield knew "nothing of the politics or the substance" of White House operations.

**Kept Track of People**

What Mr. Butterfield did, Mr. McClory and others said, was to keep track of what people and what paper went into and out of the President's office. He also was in charge of seeing that the White House staff operated smoothly.

Mr. Butterfield was also in charge of the President's system for tape-recording his meetings and telephone conversations. It was his testimony before the Senate Watergate committee last July that revealed the existence of the taping system and changed the entire course of Watergate investigations.

The Judiciary Committee reportedly did not question Mr. Butterfield extensively about the taping apparatus but concentrated on his knowledge of the inner workings of the White House.

He provided what Representative Charles B. Rangel, Democrat of Manhattan, called a "backdrop" for the more substantive testimony to come.

**O'Brien Next Witness**

Tomorrow, the panel is scheduled to hear testimony from Paul L. O'Brien, who was a lawyer for President Nixon's re-election committee and who allegedly served as an intermediary in the negotiations that led to the payment of \$75,000 to E. Howard Hunt Jr., the convicted Watergate conspirator.

As the committee moved into a new phase of its hearings, extraordinary precautions were

taken to keep information from becoming public.

Mr. Rodino was reportedly reluctant to give the other committee members copies of an outline of the scope of the evidence sought from Mr. Butterfield and did so only at the insistence of some Republican members. Even then, the members were required to leave their outlines in the committee room to prevent unauthorized disclosure.

**Theories Withheld**

Moreover, Mr. Doar was said to have told members that he could not provide them today with a series of theories, prepared by the staff, as to how the evidence that had been compiled could possibly fit into articles if impeachment.

Mr. Doar said at the public meeting yesterday that he hoped to have the theories ready for the members by today. But a committee official said this morning that they still had not been prepared and that they probably would not be made available to the Representatives until next week so as to prevent leaks over the long weekend.

Originally, the plans were for the committee to publish today the transcripts it made of eight hours said that these would not

of President Nixon's tape-recorded conversations relating to Watergate, but staff members released until next week.

Mr. Rodino was said to be undecided about whether to publish a detailed comparison of discrepancies between the transcripts made by the committee and those made by the White House. Persons who have seen both sets of transcripts report that there are thousands of differences in the wording, some important and other inconsequential.

The committee voted last week to make public nearly all the approximately 8,000 pages of evidence that was presented to the committee in closed sessions in the first seven weeks of hearings.

All indications are that most of this information will now be withheld, at the instructions of Mr. Rodino and Mr. Hutchinson, until just before the committee begins debate on articles of impeachment.

Meanwhile, in an effort to get a better grasp on the evidence, the committee's Democrats and Republicans have divided themselves into separate groups, with each assigned a segment of the evidence for careful study.

**Retired From Air Force**

Mr. Butterfield, who is 48 years old, is a retired Air Force colonel. He was a friend of Mr. Haldeman at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Mr. Haldeman persuaded him to take early retirement from the service to join the White House staff at the beginning of the Nixon Administration.

One Judiciary Committee member said at lunchtime to-

day that Mr. Butterfield was "thoroughly military" in his demeanor at the morning session, "a man who sees everything in terms of the staff system."

Most of the other witnesses scheduled to appear before the Judiciary Committee have been

interrogated at length by the Senate Watergate committee or its staff, but the Senate committee reportedly did not question Mr. Butterfield in detail about anything but the White House taping apparatus.