

7 Jan 75 (1)

Butterfield - WXP: "According to administration sources, [Department of Transportation Secretary Claude S. Brinegar] called Butterfield into his office on Dec. 19 and told him that President Ford wanted his resignation. ^{AND-A} These sources said Butterfield told Brinegar he would wait until he 'received a signal' from the White House. But the President left for Vail, Colo., two days afterward, and Butterfield was unsuccessful in his attempt to present his case before Mr. Ford or Rumsfeld. ^{A 77-8} Since the President's return, the word has been quietly passed to Butterfield that Mr. Ford still wants him to resign.

"There ... is some concern within the administration that the departure of Butterfield would be viewed as retaliation for his crucial role in revealing the existence of the Nixon taping system. White House sources insist that the move is not retaliatory. They say that most of the Cabinet holdovers from the Nixon administration will resign in the next few months. One White House source indicated that while [Butterfield] will be asked to resign, there will be no haste in getting him off the job. The source said that the actual resignation might not occur for another two months. He added, however, that Butterfield definitely would be going. According to one source, it is possible that Butterfield will be offered another position. President Ford is using this tactic in the case of Labor Secretary Peter J. Brennan, who has been offered the ambassadorship of Ireland. But nothing has been offered Butterfield at this point."

Story says Butterfield will be given a chance to present the case for his retention in a meeting with WH chief of staff Donald H. Rumsfeld, probably later this week.

NYT says the WH has stepped up its search for a successor to Butterfield, and that according to "well-informed Administration sources" he is slated for departure by early March.

WXP 7 Jan 75, Lou Cannon

NYT 7 Jan 75, Richard Witkin

- See entry 20 Dec 74, Butterfield.

- See entry 10 Oct 76, Butterfield, intv'd by Mike Wallace ...

7 Jan 75 (2)

Korff visits Nixon today, and also 8 Jan. Holds press
conference 9 Jan; see entry that date.

NYT 10 Jan 75 [Special to NYT]

SFC 9 Jan 75, UPI

WXP 10 Jan 75, Leroy F. Aarons

(7 Jan 75) AMP

Ⓐ- 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 AMP-A. "Butterfield [said] that he was convinced of this agreement when he was fired, because Mr. Ford refused to see him, although they know each other and at one time had been on a first name basis. Also, he said, he was told rather abruptly to leave, without the courtesy of remaining in office until a successor was named."

SFC 12 Oct 76 [AP]