

*Political Espionage*  
*Butterfield*

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BUTTERFIELD-WATERGATE 420

BY WILLIAM L. CHAZE

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD, WHO DISCLOSED THE EXISTENCE OF THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES, SAID SUNDAY 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 OKAY," SAID BUTTERFIELD IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW.

"ONCE THEY HAD PERMISSION TO DO WHAT THEY FIRST DID, THEN THAT WAS CONSIDERED TACIT APPROVAL TO GO BACK AGAIN," SAID BUTTERFIELD.

BUTTERFIELD SAID HE WAS "STRICTLY EXPRESSING A PERSONAL OPINION" THAT NIXON KNEW ABOUT THE FIRST BREAK-IN AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN MAY 1972. IN THAT BREAK-IN, THE WATERGATE BURGLARS PLACED ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICES IN THE OFFICE.

THAT BREAK-IN WAS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER ON JUNE 17, 1972, IN WHICH FIVE MEN WERE ARRESTED AND LATER LINKED TO THE NIXON RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

BUTTERFIELD, WHO RESIGNED IN MARCH AS HEAD OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, SAID HE HAD NO INSIDE KNOWLEDGE THAT 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," SAID BUTTERFIELD.

"BUT WHO KNEW IT BETTER THAN I - EXCEPT MAYBE HALDEMAN," SAID BUTTERFIELD IN A REFERENCE TO H.R. HALDEMAN, A TOP NIXON WHITE HOUSE AIDE WHO RESIGNED BECAUSE OF WATERGATE.

"KNOWING THE SYSTEM AS I KNOW IT TO BE - THE WAY THEY STONEWALLED IT AND THEIR INTRANSIGENCY THE WHOLE TIME - THERE'S LITTLE QUESTION IN MY MIND ... THAT NIXON KNEW ABOUT IT," SAID BUTTERFIELD. "I DON'T THINK IT IS A UNIQUE POINT OF VIEW. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAS COME OUT, PEOPLE WHO THINK HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING, THEY MUST NOT GET HIM."

BUTTERFIELD WAS THE FORMER NIXON DEPUTY WHO TOLD THE WATERGATE HEARINGS IN 1973 HOW LISTENING DEVICES WERE INSTALLED IN NIXON'S OFFICES AND ON HIS TELEPHONES. THE TAPES, WHICH WERE HEARD BY A HOUSE PANEL CONSIDERING IMPERCHMENT, FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN NIXON'S RESIGNATION LAST YEAR.

THE TAPES PICKED UP NIXON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THEN WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN DEAN, WHO SAID THAT NIXON KNEW OF EFFORTS TO COVER UP THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN.

NIXON HAS DENIED EVER KNOWING ABOUT PLANS TO BURGLARIZE THE DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS.

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#WASHINGTON; BUTTERFIELD-WATERGATE R300 ADD; HEADQUARTERS.

NEITHER THE FORMER PRESIDENT NOR ANY SPOKESMAN FOR HIM COULD BE REACHED FOR COMMENT SUNDAY ON BUTTERFIELD'S ALLEGATIONS.

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THIS WEEK'S PEOPLE MAGAZINE; BUTTERFIELD SAID HE NEVER CONSIDERED WITHHOLDING INFORMATION ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE TAPES.

"I DECIDED EARLY ON THAT IF ASKED A DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT THE TAPES; I WOULD RESPOND WITH A DIRECT ANSWER;" HE SAID.

BUTTERFIELD SAID IN THE INTERVIEW THAT HE HAS HAD NO COMMUNICATION WITH 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 NIXON'S FAMILY; "BUT I DON'T FEEL ANFUL ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION. NOT AT ALL."

BUTTERFIELD SAID HALDEMAN AND FORMER AIDE JOHN ENRLICHMAN; WHO ALSO RESIGNED BECAUSE OF THE WATERGATE SCANDAL; ARE STILL FRIENDLY TOWARD HIM.

"I STILL HAVE LOTS OF GOOD FRIENDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE; BUT I ALWAYS FELT A LITTLE STRANGE AFTER TELLING ABOUT THE TAPES."

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. "RIGHT AFTER I TESTIFIED ABOUT THE TAPES; I HEARD THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING OF THREE OR FOUR NIXON LOYALISTS IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DECISION WAS: 'BUTTERFIELD MUST GO.' PRESIDENT NIXON DIDN'T SURVIVE; AND I THINK THEY FELT I SHOULD GO; TOO.

"I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED LEAVING IF THEY HAD ADMITTED IT WAS FOR THESE UNDERSTANDABLE POLITICAL REASONS - IF PRESIDENT FORD HAD JUST STOOD UP AND SAID BUTTERFIELD HAS DONE A SATISFACTORY JOB AT FAA BUT THIS IS POLITICS; GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK. I WOULD RESPECT THAT. BUT HE DIDN'T."

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BUTTERFIELD-WATERGATE 490

BY WILLIAM L. CHAZE

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - THE MAN WHO DISCLOSED THE EXISTENCE OF THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES SAYS HE BELIEVES FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON APPROVED THE WATERGATE BURGLARY.

ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD STRESSED THAT HE WAS VENTURING A PERSONAL OPINION AND HAD NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF WHETHER NIXON KNEW ABOUT THE BURGLARIES. BUTTERFIELD HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF WHITE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY UNDER NIXON AND, AS HE ONCE SAID: "IN CHARGE OF THE SMOOTH RUNNING OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICIAL DAY."

BUTTERFIELD SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW SUNDAY FROM HIS SUBURBAN ALEXANDRIA, VA., HOME: "AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAS COME OUT, PEOPLE WHO THINK HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING - THEY MUST NOT GET HIM. TO HAVE DONE SOMETHING THAT BIG, HE HAD TO HAVE GIVEN THE OKAY."

BUTTERFIELD SAID HE NOW FEELS FREE TO EXPRESS THE OPINION BECAUSE HE WAS LEFT THE GOVERNMENT. HE RESIGNED IN MARCH AS HEAD OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.

"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."

BUTTERFIELD, A FORMER AIR FORCE COLONEL, IS THE FORMER NIXON DEPUTY ASSISTANT WHO TOLD THE SENATE WATERGATE HEARINGS IN 1973 THAT NIXON HAD INSTALLED LISTENING DEVICES IN HIS OFFICE AND ON HIS TELEPHONES. AT THE TIME, BUTTERFIELD WAS ONE OF A SMALL GROUP OF WHITE HOUSE INSIDERS WHO KNEW ABOUT THE TAPING SYSTEM.

THE EQUIPMENT, WHICH THE WHITE HOUSE LATER CONFIRMED WAS INSTALLED IN 1970, RECORDED NIXON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS PRINCIPAL ACCUSER IN THE WATERGATE COVER-UP, OUSTED WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL JOHN W. DEAN III.

NIXON WAS DENIED EVER KNOWING ABOUT THE TWO WATERGATE BURGLARIES BEFORE THEY OCCURRED. THE FIRST WAS CARRIED OUT IN MAY 1972 WHEN ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING DEVICES WERE PLANTED IN THE WATERGATE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE. THE OFFICE WAS BROKEN INTO AGAIN A MONTH LATER BY FIVE MEN WHO WERE ARRESTED AND LINKED TO THE NIXON RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

"KNOWING THE SYSTEM AS I KNOW IT TO BE - THE WAY THEY STONEWALLED AND THEIR INTRANSIGENCY THE WHOLE TIME - THERE'S LITTLE QUESTION IN MY MIND . . . THAT NIXON KNEW ABOUT IT," SAID BUTTERFIELD.

"I DON'T THINK IT IS A UNIQUE POINT OF VIEW," HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE FELT ONCE THE BURGLARS "HAD PERMISSION TO DO WHAT THEY FIRST DID; THEN THAT WAS CONSIDERED TACIT APPROVAL TO GO BACK AGAIN."

"THAT IS STRICTLY A PERSONAL OPINION BASED ON A DAMN CLEAR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SYSTEM - THE WAY NIXON OPERATED," SAID BUTTERFIELD.

"BUT WHO KNEW IT BETTER THAN I - EXCEPT MAYBE HALDEMAN," H.R. HALDEMAN WAS ONE OF NIXON'S TOP TWO AIDES UNTIL WATERGATE FORCED HIM TO RESIGN.

MEANWHILE, BUTTERFIELD SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN PEOPLE MAGAZINE THIS WEEK THAT HE HAS HAD NO COMMUNICATION WITH NIXON SINCE THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

"I'M SURE HE HATES ME AS MUCH AS ANYONE CAN," SAID BUTTERFIELD.

"I STILL HAVE LOTS OF GOOD FRIENDS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT I ALWAYS FELT A LITTLE STRANGE AFTER TELLING ABOUT THE TAPES."

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