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**Ex-Aide Regrets Saying
Nixon OKd the Break-In**

Washington

Former White House aide Alexander Butterfield, who said Sunday he felt former President Richard M. Nixon personally approved the Watergate burglary, publicly apologized to the Nixon family yesterday for those statements.

Butterfield, the man who first disclosed the existence of the White House tapes to the Senate Watergate committee, did not retract his statements but said he regretted reopening the subject.

Butterfield, former administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, said Sunday that he felt the burglary itself had the advance approval of Mr. Nixon.

"After everything that has come out, people who think he didn't know about everything — they must not get him," Butterfield said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press. "To have done something that big, he had to have given the OK."

Butterfield stressed during the interview that this was his personal opinion and that he had no direct knowledge of whether Mr. Nixon knew in advance about the burglary.

Butterfield said yesterday he agreed to talk to the As-

sociated Press about Watergate only because the subject had come up in a recent interview by a magazine about his present job and future plans. He said that during that first interview he "was careless and allowed the discussion to slip to Watergate and my personal opinions."

Butterfield said he wanted to make it clear that he had not intended to reopen the subject of Watergate and that he had talked about it only after questioning by reporters.

"I don't think anyone respected more than I Mr. Ford's request of many months ago that we put all things Watergate-related behind us," he said in a prepared statement. Certainly, no one wants more than I to see Watergate in the past."

"So I deeply regret this latest incident and I apologize most sincerely to the Nixon family," he said.

At one time during the Nixon administration, Butterfield was in charge of White House administration and security.

He was one of a small group who knew of the taping system and the disclosed the existence of the tapes under questioning by Senate

Watergate committee staff members in 1973.

Those tapes which recorded the conversations between Nixon and his top aides, eventually were involved in Mr. Nixon's reason for his resignation.

Mr. Nixon has denied knowing about the Watergate burglary before it occurred.

Associated Press