

27 May 1975

Dick Barnes
The Associated Press
2021 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dick:

Sorry to impose on you, but I need a little help with the two AP stories enclosed. They concern Alex Butterfield; one is from the SF Chronicle of May 12, the other from the NY Times of May 14.

I'm hoping you can figure out who wrote them and that he or she can recall the minimal information needed to clear them up. It seems likely that both were cut severely before they got into print.

First, what magazine interviewed Butterfield, and what issue carried the interview?

The AP story in the NY Times version describes the magazine interview as being about Butterfield's "present job and future plans." I think this was intended to mean his present job plans as well as those for his future; but it could be taken to mean that the interview concerned his present job AND plans for the future. The point is, if he has a job, it's news to me, and I'd like to know what it is.

Both stories appear to invite the inference that AP saw the magazine yarn and in a routine follow-up by phone dug up the Nixon angle. However it would be most interesting to know whether there was any initiative by Butterfield in disclosing the Nixon angle. Does anyone remember just how this happened?

I'm interested because since retiring in 1973 I've spent most of my time on Watergate et al, and naturally regard Butterfield as a central and very key figure, of much greater importance than most people seem to think, I might add. I've filed everything on him from his first appearance and would like to fill out this latest episode to understandable dimensions if possible.

My curiosity perhaps is whetted by the fact that the mail edition of the Washington Post which I get appears not to have touched this story, and that the NY Times, which I also get by surface mail, carried only this one AP item on May 14. Both of these mighty mets, in my humble experience, have hangups beyond the comprehension of ordinary mortals.

I would be most grateful to you and anyone else involved for any light you can shed on the above questions, and I do hope it won't cause anyone more trouble than a couple of questions and answers.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



James D. White
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