

1:00 p.m. News (Network feed)

President and Mrs. Ford are spending the weekend in the Midwest. On a flight from Washington to Traverse City, Mich., their first stop, news secretary Nessen told reporters the White House has no information on whether Alexander Butterfield was a CIA contact man in the Nixon administration, as alleged by retired Air Force Col. Fletcher Prouty. More on the CIA-Butterfield issue now from correspondent Daniel Schorr:

Schorr – The Central Intelligence Agency has just denied that Alexander Butterfield, former White House aide, was even employed by the CIA in any capacity, but said he did have clearance from the agency. A long statement from the CIA pointed out that when he had worked for Lt. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell Jr., who was deputy chief of staff of the Air Force, he was given a clearance. That clearance, he [it?] said, was also given when he worked at the White House, and he lost it when he left the White House to become administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. The CIA also denied that there had been any penetration or infiltration of the government. It said the practice of assigning personnel to other departments was long established and in no way – this is a quote “represented penetration or infiltration of any agency or department.” Daniel Schorr, CBS News, Washington
[end item]