

Butterfield Says Ford Got Mandate to Dismiss Him

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 (AP) — The former head of the Federal Aviation Administration, Alexander P. Butterfield, said today that President Ford took office with a mandate to dismiss him.

But Ron Nessen, Presidential press secretary, disagreed, terming as "just ludicrous" suggestions that there had been any agreement by Mr. Ford to discharge Mr. Butterfield.

Mr. Butterfield, who first disclosed the existence of the White House taping system before the Senate Watergate committee, said that the decision that he should be dismissed was made by President Nixon after Mr. Butterfield testified before the House Judiciary Committee in July 1974. The committee was considering articles of impeachment against Mr. Nixon.

He said that he believed, both from the way he was dismissed and from indications by his friends in the White House, that when Mr. Nixon left office there was an agreement that he would be dismissed.