

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Interview Summary or Addendum” of the Alexander P. Butterfield Papers, 1973 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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INTERVIEW

ATTACHED IS ADDENDUM TO

INTERVIEW OF

ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD



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Interview with Alexander P. Butterfield on July 13, 1973 at 2:15 PM  
at G334, New Senate Office Building  
by Gene Boyce, Don Sanders, Scott Armstrong (M. Brazer also present)  
Dictated 7-13-73 Transcribed c 7-13-73 by Marianne

A D D E N D U M

ALEXANDER P. BUTTERFIELD

During the course of the interview, Mr. Butterfield was shown a White House log of conversations between the President and Mr. Dean (indicating the date and substance of conversation). Butterfield also recalled that Dean indicated during his testimony before our Hearings that he (Dean) had the impression that he was being taped during his conversations in the Oval Office.

Butterfield then stated, "There is tape in the Oval Office. This tape is maintained by the Secret Service, and only four (4) Secret Service Men know about it."

The system was installed about 2 1/2 years ago ---- at the 18 month point of Nixon's term ---- "the President is very history oriented about the role he is going to play, and is not subtle about it."

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Butterfield stated that "Higby came to me and said the President wants you (Butterfield) to get together with the Secret Service and have the Oval Office, the Cabinet Room, and the EOB set up for tapes. I got the Technical Security Division ---- they said okay." The system was installed on a weekend when the President was out of town.

Butterfield stated that the only people who knew of this system were: himself, the President, Haldeman, Higby, Wong (in charge of the Technical Security Division at this time), Zoomwalt (Secret Service man), the Secret Service telephone specialist (name cannot recall), Mary Sidley (Butterfield's secretary, whom he told one day long after the system was installed, reason was due to circumstances), and Lou Sims (replaced Wong at TSD). Butterfield stated that he feels certain that Dean suspected there was a taping system, could not document who would have told Dean about it, but in Butterfield's "own mind, it might have been Higby."



The locator system in the White House is operated by the Secret Service. Whenever the President enters a room, the Secret Service man turns on the switch in this room which activates a locator light panel on the desks of Haldeman, Butterfield and Bull (in this way it is known exactly where the President is).

The master tape system is located in the basement under the White House. The taping units are located in the Oval Office (room and telephone), the EOB inner office (room), the Cabinet Room (room), the Lincoln Room (telephone), Camp David (telephone/ Presidential Study AKA Aspen Room).

Taping in the Oval Office activated by the locator system, the taping itself triggered by sound. Mikes were located under the President's desk, on the mantel. There is no manual cut off switch in the Oval Office.

Taping in the Cabinet Room can be activated in two ways: 1) by the switches under the table of such room, and 2) by a push button on Butterfield's phone. The taping in

the Cabinet Room could be cut off if desired. For example, the President has had Cabinet Meetings and did not want anyone present (including Haldeman), "this was not taped, as I (Butterfield) was sure that the President did not want this taped."

With respect to Camp David, the tape unit was placed in the phone in the President's own study (AKA Aspen Room). The Secret Service has been concerned about this because of State visitors lodging there. Taping equipment is basically simple, and in the phone, and it is possible that the Secret Service have it removed in the event of invited guests.

Butterfield stated that the quality of sound is good on the Oval Office and EOP Office tapes; however, those taped in the Cabinet Room are poor (sometimes inaudible)

With respect to the results of the tapes, Butterfield stated that the Secret Service changed the tapes at least once a day --- this was Zoomwald's responsibility. The tapes were taken off, dated, and placed in storage. The tapes are stored in various security areas of the White House.



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Butterfield is aware of one storage area which is located in the main corridor back of the stairs in a small "broom closet"; an iron gate was installed for security purposes.

The tapes have been made and stored, there has been no transcription; to Butterfield's knowledge, the President has never requested a tape be brought to him, nor has he inquired of them. The plan had been that four or five trustworthy people would be employed to do nothing but transcribe the tapes, and this material would be filed at the Archives. This has never been initiated.

With respect to the Oval Office, Butterfield stated that the President never requested that the Secret Service not use the locator system which would activate the tapes.

Butterfield stated that he had heard that LBJ had a lot of things recorded during the Johnson Administration . . . Butterfield also said that the Secret Service indicated that they played this tape game before.

Butterfield stated that the above information was not revealed to the Special Prosecutors as "they did not ask anything related to this."

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During a recent phone conversation with Haig, Haldeman's replacement, Butterfield mentioned the system. Haig interrupted and said "I know, I know about that." Butterfield assumes that Higby, Haldeman or possibly the President informed him of this taping system.

Butterfield stated "This is all something I know the President did not want revealed, but you asked me, and I feel it is something you ought to know about in your investigations. I was told no one was to know about the information I have told you."



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An Addendum to the interview of  
Alexander P. Butterfield, on July 13,  
1973 at 2:15 PM at G 334, New Senate  
Office Building, Washington, DC.



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