

Colson Says Nixon Warned In January

F Post 6-10-74

NEW YORK (AP) — Former White House aide Charles Colson has told Watergate investigators that he told President Nixon about the Watergate cover-up a full two months before Nixon says he heard about it, Time magazine reported Sunday.

The magazine says that Colson, who pleaded guilty last

week to obstruction of justice in connection with the burglary of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office, has told investigators that he discussed the cover-up with Nixon in January and February of 1973.

Nixon says he learned of efforts to cover up the burglary from former White House coun-

sel John W. Dean on March 21, 1973.

Time says that in January Colson "told the President: 'something is going on here that is very wrong. There's got to be an investigation.' Colson quotes Nixon as replying: 'What do you think we ought to do?' Colson's answer: 'I'll see

what I can find out.'"

The magazine says that in February, Colson learned of former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell's alleged approval of payments to the original Watergate defendants.

"Colson promptly warned the President that these payoffs were taking place," Time says. "Nixon's alleged reply: 'What do you mean? Mitchell says he is innocent.'"

Colson, the account says, then told his story to Dean, H.R. Haldeman, then White House chief of staff, and former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman. All of them, Time says, were unconcerned.

In an unrelated development, Time said the House Judiciary Committee, which is considering Nixon's impeachment, "should meet a target date of July 15 for taking its vote. It said Rep. Peter W. Rodino, the committee's chairman, has told House Speaker Carl Albert he can meet that deadline.