



President's Counsel Accuses the Washington Post and C.B.S
of 'McCarthyism'

By **ROBERT H. PHELPS**

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KENNEBUNKFORT, Me., Nov. 12—Charles W. Colson, special counsel to President Nixon, accused The Washington Post and the Columbia Broadcasting System last night of "McCarthyism" in their reports of the bugging of the Democratic National Committee and allegations of Republican efforts to "sabotage" the Democratic Presidential primaries.

In a rare public appearance, the key Nixon assistant told the annual convention of the New England Society of Newspaper

Editors at the Shawmut Inn that The Post and C.B.S. had been "unconscionable" in the way that they had "printed, reprinted and eventually reported as a fact that which was indeed not a fact" regarding the attempted bugging of the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate Hotel in Washington and the alleged disruption of the Democratic primary campaign.

Specifically, Mr. Colson cited a Post article reporting that H. R. Haldeman, President Nixon's top assistant, had had access to a "secret fund" used

to disrupt the opposition. Mr. Colson complained that The Post had repeated the charge without mentioning denials by Mr. Haldeman and by Hugh Sloan, the former finance chairman of the Nixon drive, who allegedly was the original source of the article.

Mr. Colson, who played a major role in directing the campaign to re-elect President Nixon, singled out Benjamin Bradlee, the executive editor of The Post, for his harshest criticism.

Describing Mr. Bradlee as the "self-appointed leader of a 'tiny fringe of arrogant elitists'"

in journalism, Mr. Colson added:

"If Bradlee ever left the Georgetown cocktail set where he and his elitist buddies dine on third-hand information, gossip and rumor, he would discover the real America. He might learn that all truth and knowledge does not emanate exclusively from The Post, The [New York] Times, and the networks; and that all of the rest of the country isn't just sitting around waiting to be told by these select few what they are supposed to think."

Mr. Colson also denounced C.B.S. and Eric Sevareid, the

commentator, for two programs on the Watergate case, "rehashing all of the old charges, coming up with no new information and noting only a selective few denials." Fifteen minutes of the 22 minutes of the first program were "unlabeled editorial," Mr. Colson said.

"Thus," he charged, "The Post and C.B.S. employed tactics similar to those attributed to their old archenemy of the nineteen-fifties [the late Senator Joseph R. McCarthy], engaging in the identical kind of unproven innuendo they found so shocking 20 years ago."

Mr. Colson attributed The Post's handling of the Watergate story to the paper's desire to prop up the sagging campaign of Senator George McGovern. He suggested no motivation for C.B.S.'s coverage.

The tragedy of The Post's handling of the Watergate story, Mr. Colson concluded, was to "erode somewhat public confidence in the institutions of government; and it also eroded as well the confidence of a lot of fair-minded persons in the objective reporting of The Washington Post."