

# Colson May Leave White House Post

1/25/72  
By Lou Cannon

Washington Post Staff Writer

Charles W. Colson, the controversial special counsel and troubleshooter for President Nixon, intends to leave the administration and resume practicing law in Washington.

Colson, whose name has figured in administration controversies from the G. Harrold Carswell nomination to the Watergate case, has told the friends and former associates for some time that he did not intend to remain in government.

One of them, attorney Charles H. Morin, said he hoped that Colson would resume their legal association.

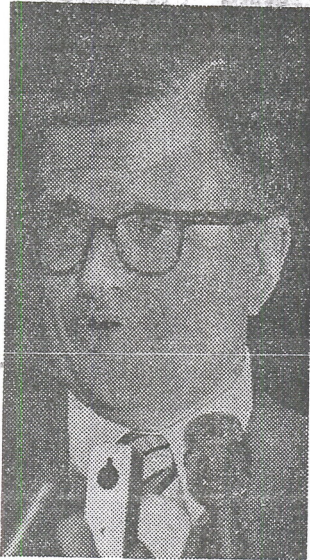
"I expect him to leave and go back into the practice of law—I hope it's here," said Morin, who had lunch with Colson yesterday and on many previous occasions.

Morin emphasized, however, that he had no commitments from Colson, "moral or other wise," and added:

"Chuck's only commitment is to the President."

Morin and Colson 41, co-founded a Washington law firm in 1961 which bore their names and both of them subsequently became partners in the firm of Gadsby and Hannah. On Oct. 1, Morin left this firm and joined another prominent group of lawyers, who became known as Morin, Dickstein, Shapiro and Galligan.

Other friends of Colson said



CHARLES W. COLSON  
... back to practice?

that they had been told flatly that he was bowing out of the administration.

"I think the President is absolutely right that people burn themselves out in government," Colson told the New England Society of Newspaper Editors on Nov. 11 in defending the President's policy of asking for widespread resignations.

Colson, who once told a visitor that he would "do anything that Richard Nixon asked me to do — period,"

See COLSON, A6, Col. 1

## COLSON, From A1

earned a reputation in the administration as a tough, wide-ranging troubleshooter adept at performing a variety of tasks.

He wrote the President's letter to the Senate urging the Supreme Court confirmation of Carswell in which he contended that the Senate had no right "to substitute its judgment as to who should be appointed."

In the spring of 1970, Colson also was responsible for organizing a pro-administration group of veterans to counter a veteran's group opposing U.S. intervention against the North

Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Colson performed a variety of public relations roles on economic issues, setting up background briefings to promote editorials backing the President's economic policy. He organized a group, "Citizens for a New Prosperity," to support the Nixon administration's wage-and-price controls.

Other public relations activities by Colson in behalf of the President included the organizing of support for congressional approval of the administration's antiballistic missile system proposal. Soon after he was recruited as administration special counsel by former presidential counselor Bryce Harlow, Colson described his job as "main liaison for the President with the outside world."

It was in his less publicized duties within the Nixon administration that Colson became a controversial figure.

He was once accused, and declined to comment, on an allegation that he worked with a Life magazine reporter on an article alleging that then-Sen. Joseph Tydings (D-Md.) used his prestige to promote the interests of a company in which he held stock. The allegation was denied by Tydings and —after the election in which he lost his Senate seat — by the State Department.

In the 1970 election, Colson also was linked with newspaper ads implying that eight incumbent Democratic senators were soft on law-and-order issues. Colson denied all connection with the ads, but The Baltimore Sun published a letter to Colson from the treasurer of the ad committee, which said, in part:

"Do you think we need more names? Democrats are hard to come by."

Howard Hunt, a special consultant to Colson, is one of the seven men indicted in the alleged burglary of Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate. Colson maintains that Hunt left his employ two months before the burglary occurred.

In his speech to the New

England editors, Colson also said that he would "love the opportunity" to testify before a congressional committee on the issue.

"Long before the FBI asked to talk to me I asked to talk to them and gave them a sworn statement, did it three times when they asked for it," Colson said. "Everyone I know in

the White House did. I am as convinced in my own heart as I can be of anything that no one in the White House had any knowledge whatsoever of the Watergate, and I would be delighted to . . . (testify)."

In the same speech Colson said that reporting by The Washington Post on the issue was "McCarthyism" and "unconscionable," adding that its impact was to "erode somewhat public confidence in the institutions of government."

Colson, who was once described by Harlow as having "the happy marriage of intellectual ability and the competence to pursue it," was, at 22, the youngest company commander in the Marines and, at 27, the youngest administrative assistant to the U.S. senator.

The senator was Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts. Colson's predecessor in the job, Bradford Morse, described Colson as "one of the three or four most talented human beings I've ever encountered."

Colson's political skills became quickly evident in the 1960 campaign, when he persuaded eight prominent Irish supporters of John F. Kennedy to send a letter to Democratic voters urging support of "this fine bipartisan team of Saltonstall and Kennedy."

In Washington, after he left Saltonstall, Colson earned the reputation as an effective advocate of firms that did business with the government. Colson's clients included the Grumman Corp., and Colson was credited with winning for Grumman contracts for the Navy version of the F-111 fighter plane.

Like all other high-ranking administration officials, Colson promptly submitted his resignation after President Nixon's re-election. Since then, he has visited Camp David three times to meet with the President.

Despite Colson's avowal that he wants to return to private law practice, there is always the possibility that he would change his mind if the President urged him to stay. But his friends expect him to return to the practice of law.

"He's more than welcome in this firm by all the partners," said Morin, re-emphasizing that Colson had not made any commitment. "We have open arms for him here."