

[Judy Miller, Pacifica, Washington:]

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Charles Colson addressed the National Press Club today and denied any direct or indirect involvement in the Watergate bugging and break-in. He also defended the other former White House aides who have been implicated in press reports of McCord's testimony.

Colson [voice]: I can understand the fascination of the Watergate. It's kind of like reading a dime novel-thriller - it is for me - to follow the day-by-day works of fact and fiction that have been written about the Watergate. But you know, I know all of the assistants to the President, and every one of them are very dedicated, hard-working Americans who deeply believe in what they're doing. I don't know one of them yet who has been implicated by anything other than third-hand hearsay in the Watergate, and until one is, I think it's a damn shame to impugn a lot of decent people who're working very hard for the country. [End of Colson excerpt.]

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This is all we've heard or seen on Colson at the Press Club, but NYTimes for the 30th isn't in yet.