

## Colson cleared on bugging by lie test, his attorney says

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Charles W. Colson, former White House special counsel, took and passed a lie detector test to shore up his claims he had no advance knowledge of the Watergate bugging conspiracy, his lawyer said Sunday.

The attorney, David I. Shapiro, said Colson voluntarily submitted to the test last week in New York and that the lie detector expert who administered the five-question quiz concluded afterward that Colson had "truthfully" denied any involvement in the plot.

Although the questions put to Colson were understood to have dealt solely with the Watergate raid, it was believed the results would be used to help prove that he did not know beforehand about the June 17 bugging of Democratic National Headquarters or any other political espionage or sabotage in the 1972 presidential campaign.

Convicted Watergate defendant James W. McCord Jr. is reported to have told the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities investigating the incident that he learned from fellow conspirators that Colson did know in advance about the bugging operation.

McCord returns before a grand jury for a third day of

questioning about the case Monday.

Colson, who handled a number of politically sensitive assignments for President Nixon before leaving the White House staff earlier this year, also recommended the hiring of E. Howard Hunt Jr. as a White House consultant in 1971. Hunt was one of five men who pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy, burglary, bugging

and wiretapping at the Watergate trial in January.

Colson now is a partner in Shapiro's law firm. The firm's partners union, which endorsed Mr. Nixon's re-election, recently hired the firm as its Washington counsel.

Colson, 41, has consistently denied any knowledge of the Watergate affair publicly and under oath at least twice to investigators.