

Nixon Said To Welcome Colson Data

Spokesmen for President Nixon said yesterday they welcomed any testimony on Watergate that former presidential special counsel Charles W. Colson might give, saying it would help Mr. Nixon's defense.

Colson pleaded guilty Monday to a felony count of obstruction of justice for trying to influence the outcome of the trial of Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg. All other charges were dropped against Colson, who agreed to cooperate with Watergate investigators. This may include testifying at hearings or trials.

"We welcome the possibility that Mr. Colson may testify," said White House deputy press secretary Gerald L. Warren. "We welcome his decision to step forward and tell the truth. Mr. Colson's testimony concerning any presidential knowledge or awareness or lack of it on Watergate or other matters would be welcome."

Warren said suggestions that the White House was fearful Colson might divulge information damaging to the President were "utterly false." He said Mr. Nixon has repeatedly urged former aides and advisers to come forward and tell what they know about Watergate.

James D. St. Clair, the President's Watergate attorney, said as he arrived for the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry that he hoped Colson would be called before that committee.

St. Clair said he was sure any testimony Colson might give "would be highly supportive of the President."