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Colson Decision Came At Religious Meeting

WASHINGTON, June 5 (AP) —Senator Harold E. Hughes says Charles W. Colson's unexpected guilty plea to a felony charge followed an intensely religious meeting the previous night at the home of the former White House counsel.

Senator Hughes said yesterday that during the long and tearful session, he and other friends had prayed and reassured Mr. Colson that "the Lord would honor what he was doing."

The Senator, a liberal Democrat from Iowa who is leaving the Senate to devote himself to the prayer movement, also said the court plea came after Mr. Colson searched the statutes for a crime to which he could truthfully confess. Mr. Colson had been offered a chance by the special prosecutor's office to plead to a much lesser charge, a misdemeanor, but felt he could not do so in good conscience, Mr. Hughes said.

The Senator said, "Chuck had arrived at the conclusion by himself" to confess to defaming Dr. Daniel Ellsberg. He then presented the idea to his attorneys and the special prosecutor.