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House Panel May Ask Colson For Testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — Various members of the House Judiciary Committee said Friday they would consider whether President Nixon might be criminally liable for acts that former White House aide Charles Colson told a court Nixon urged him to commit.

The committee, winding up the evidentiary presentation phase of its hearings, also learned from Internal Revenue

Service records that the IRS considered charging Nixon with civil fraud in connection with his income tax returns.

Colson, as he was given a one-to three-year jail sentence, said, "The President on numerous occasions urged me to disseminate damaging information about Daniel Ellsberg."

Colson had pleaded guilty to an obstruction of justice charge based on attempts to influence

the outcome of the trial of the Pentagon Papers figure by detrimental publicity.

Several members of the committee immediately called for Colson's appearance before the panel as an impeachment witness. Chairman Peter Rodino, D-N.J., would not comment directly on whether Colson would be called but said, "We certainly will have to give it serious consideration."

Rep. Hamilton Fish, R-N.Y., said the committee already was looking into the legal question of Nixon's possible responsibility for criminal acts of his subordinates. He said much de-

pends on what Colson meant by saying Nixon "urged" him.

Some committee members said they understood Colson already was on the witness list before his Friday courtroom statement.

Meanwhile, the committee was winding up six weeks of evidentiary presentation by its staff with consideration of Nixon's income tax problems and the 1969-70 secret bombing of Cambodia.

The first presentation on taxes Thursday had left most members saying there appeared to be nothing to base an impeachment charge on.