

# Colson Ties Nixon to Report

## 7-16-74 Newsman Probed in '71

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Charles W. Colson told the House Judiciary Committee yesterday that President Nixon knew in advance that the White House was putting out an untrue report about the 1971 FBI investigation of CBS television correspondent Daniel Schorr.

Schorr had reported several stories in the field of education and poverty which angered the White House to the point that John W. Dean III put Schorr high on the list of White House "enemies" to be harassed. When reports were printed that friends of Schorr said they had been questioned about him by the FBI, the White House said Schorr was being considered for a government job. This seemed unlikely and never occurred.

Committee members said Colson, then special counsel to the President, told the impeachment inquiry that he had told Mr. Nixon of the cover story in advance and that the President did nothing to stop it. The President apparently did not affirmatively order the cover story, members said. But Colson said it would not have happened had the President disapproved it.

Colson did not say whether the President knew in advance of the FBI investigation.

Colson was involved in several of the events that have served as the basis for

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allegations that Mr. Nixon should be impeached and removed from office. He was a White House insider during the first four Nixon years, reportedly involved in a number of "dirty tricks." In 1972 he said he would "walk over" his grandmother to assure Mr. Nixon's re-election.

This year he had a religious conversion. He began serving a prison term last week for his admitted efforts to smear Daniel Ellsberg, for release of the Pentagon Papers.

Colson recruited E. Howard Hunt into the White House for work that included the break-in at Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office. After leaving the White House Hunt helped supervise the Watergate break-in.

Colson was also White House liaison with the dairy industry and was on a committee Mr. Nixon created to keep track of Richard G. Kleindienst's confirmation hearings to be Attorney General in the spring of 1972.

In these capacities, Colson might have known whether the President raised milk price supports in exchange for a \$2 million campaign pledge, and whether the President knew that Kleindienst testified untruthfully to the Senate Judiciary Committee about the President's involvement in the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. antitrust suit.

But staff lawyers questioned Colson all day yesterday without getting to the milk or ITT matters.

Members disagreed as to

whether Colson implicated Mr. Nixon directly in the plan to burglarize the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, Lewis Fielding. Part of the difficulty may have been caused by the fact that members said Colson rarely gave clear direct answers to questions.

"He seems to be trying to be candid," said Rep. M. Caldwell Butler (R-Va.), "but he hasn't had much experience in that area."

One member said he understood Colson to say he had been told by former top White House aide John D. Ehrlichman that the President told Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen that he (the President) had approved the "operation." Ehrlichman was convicted last week for involvement in the break in. The committee member under-

stood that the operation was the break-in.

But other members thought that Colson meant only that Mr. Nixon knew in advance of an effort to get information to turn public opinion against Ellsberg. Mr. Nixon acknowledged that he ordered creation of a group, known as the "Plumbers," to plug security

leaks. The Ellsberg break-in was the work of the "Plumbers."

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, when asked about reports that Colson said Mr. Nixon had ordered the break-in, said, "Here we go again."

"Unsubstantiated, confused testimony comes out of a committee and we go through 12 hours of news reports," Ziegler commented. "The fact is that the tapes clearly show the President learned about the break in on March 17, 1973, and said it was a stupid act."

Colson told newsmen when the committee recessed for dinner at 7 p.m. that he had only repeated to the committee the words that Ehrlichman had stated to him. He said Ehrlichman used the word "operation" and that was all Colson knew about the matter.

There was more partisan bickering on the committee yesterday as Republicans complained that drafts they have seen indicate that the inquiry staff, in drafting possible articles of impeachment the committee may wish to consider, is not listing supporting evidence in behalf of the President as well as against.

Special Counsel John Doar announced a month ago that the staff was preparing arti-

cles of impeachment simply to have something to put before the committee when it debates and votes next week.

Doar is also preparing documents called the "theory of the case." This lists evidence that could support specific articles of impeachment. Rep. Edward Hutchinson (R-Mich.), senior committee Republican, said drafts he has seen do not include evidence that would support clearing the President of allegations. He said he has instructed Sam Garrison, deputy minority counsel, to work up such arguments.