

Other GOP Practices Linked To Defeat of Sen. Tydings

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Former presidential assistant Charles W. Colson, who has been accused of involvement in political sabotage activities, helped a Life Magazine reporter gather information for a 1970 article that damaged the re-election campaign of former Sen. Joseph D. Tydings (D-Md.), the Associated Press reported yesterday.

Colson acknowledged to State Department investigators in 1970 that he helped William G. Lambert, a former investigative reporter for the now defunct magazine, get in touch with an important source for the story, according to the AP.

The story, which appeared 2½ months before the November, 1970, election in which Tydings was defeated by Republican J. Glenn Beall, detailed how Charter Co., a Florida firm in which Tydings had a financial interest, benefited from an Agency for International Development loan guarantee.

The key part of the story told how Raymond Mason, president of Charter and a long-time Tydings friend, took Tydings to a December, 1964, meeting with Paul

Bridston, an AID official, after Tydings had first been elected to the Senate but before he had taken office. An application for \$7 million in loan guarantees to Charter was pending at the time and subsequently was approved in May, 1965.

A week after Tydings lost to Beall, a government investigator who had probed the loan to Charter said there was no evidence of a conflict of interest on the part of Tydings or anyone else.

Colson told State Department investigators that he helped Lambert get in touch with Bridston about the meeting. Colson, who resigned from the White House staff in March to re-enter private law practice in Washington, could not be reached for comment, the AP reported.

In an interview with the AP, Tydings accused Colson of using the 1970 Senate race in Maryland as a "dry run" for political sabotage activities that allegedly were widespread during President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign.

In grand jury testimony released Monday at the Pen-

tagon Papers trial in Los Angeles, E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the seven convicted Watergate bugging conspirators, said that Colson in 1971 ordered him to prepare phony State Department cables to link President John F. Kennedy to the 1963 assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Hunt also testified that soon after the cables were fabricated, someone—apparently Colson—sent reporter Lambert to him with instructions for Hunt to show the cables to Lambert. Lambert has said recently he spent a year trying to verify the phony cables but could not.

After the Life magazine article was published in 1970, Tydings charged that "persons in the White House itself" had assisted the magazine. Tydings did not name Colson in alleging such an effort by the Nixon administration.

Lambert told The Washington Post in 1970 that he had asked "a government official" for help on the story, but refused to identify the official.