

Justice Dept. Denies Nader Election Claim

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In a memo to his colleagues on the White House staff last Aug. 28, Charles Colson said that 71 days remained before the presidential election, that "every single one" of those days "is a campaign day," and that "every day has 24 hours."

"Think to yourself at the beginning of each day, 'What am I going to do to help the President's re-election today?'" Colson continued.

Subsequently, Herbert G. Klein, Director of Communications for the Executive Branch, said on the Dick Cavett Show on ABC-TV that the campaign was making major inroads on his time. And Counselor to the President Robert H. Finch was a full-time campaigner,

the Wall Street Journal reported.

The Constitution says that public funds can be spent only for the purposes for which they were appropriated. Congress did not appropriate funds to re-elect Richard Nixon, Ralph Nader and his Public Citizen, Inc., said.

With that, they went into U.S. District Court Nov. 16 to seek a refund of the salaries paid Colson, Klein, Finch and others.

The aides had devoted "substantially all of their working time to the campaign," the suit alleged.

The other day (March 19) the Justice Department filed a one-word answer in court. It said the allegation was "denied."

The court has yet to rule.