

Insiders Asked Aid in Parole

By Carl Bernstein
and Bob Woodward

Washington Post Staff Writers

Former White House Special Counsel Charles W. Colson, former Sen. George Smathers and Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo sought to influence a decision by the U.S. Parole Board in a case they thought might help win Jewish votes for President Nixon, according to internal White House documents.

The documents, a memorandum from Colson to former Presidential counsel John W. Dean III and a transcript of a telephone

conversation between Colson and Smathers, taped by Colson, have been submitted to the Senate's Watergate investigating committee by Dean and examined by The Washington Post.

They concern Calvin Kovens, 48, a codefendant of James R. Hoffa, former Teamster Union president in a union pension fund fraud case, and urge that the White House attempt to expedite Kovens' parole.

In the transcript, Smathers is quoted as telling Colson: "I was talking with Bebe (a close friend of President Nixon) about it and said, 'Bebe,

it looks to me that this would be a pretty good thing to do.' . . . He's (Kovens) the most popular Jew in Dade County, south Florida. . .

"This I know would at least give the President, and those who are going to help in this area, a very strong basis of going to the Jewish community and saying, 'For God sakes, the one guy that went to bat for him (Kovens) was the President.' . . . Bebe said, 'I think he (President Nixon) ought to do it.' I said, 'I agree, there's no negatives on this side, it's all pluses.'"

See EXHIBITS, A21, Col. 1

Papers Show Parole, Tax Case Monitor

EXHIBIT, From A1

Although Kovens was released from prison eight days after Smathers suggested to Colson that the White House intervene in the matter, records of the U.S. Parole Board indicate that bona fide medical reasons led the board to expedite the parole.

The transcript of the telephone conversation between Colson and Smathers is dated Dec. 30, 1971, as is a covering memorandum from Colson to former presidential counsel Dean and labeled "Eyes Only." In the covering memo, Colson tells Dean:

"The attached is much too hot for me to handle. Smathers called me, I assumed, just to talk politics. The moment he began to get into the subject I turned on the recorder. Hence you have the full transcript attached. Obviously he makes a very good point and I would assume if there is anything we can do properly, we should.

"On the other hand, in view of the personalities involved here, I would think this has to be handled with extreme care . . . I would appreciate your earliest advice as to what we should do. Please discuss with me before getting this too far along. I do think, however, in view of Smathers' decision to support the President next year that we had better attend to this and not let it slip . . ."

The transcript and covering letter from Colson to Dean were among four sets of documents, turned over to the Senate Watergate committee on Monday by the former presidential counsel, that have not yet been re-

leased by the committee. Included in the same exhibit are the following other documents:

- A memorandum to Dean from former White House intelligence operative John J. Caulfield about income tax audits being conducted by the Internal Revenue Service on the Rev. Billy Graham and actor John Wayne, both of whom are personal friends of President Nixon.

The memo, dated Sept. 30, 1971, is accompanied by a White House routing slip addressed to Larry Higby, an aide to former White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman. Appearing next to the hand-written initial "H" on the routing slip is the following notation: "Next question: Can we do anything to help?" Then, in different handwriting, "No, it's already covered."

According to Dean's testimony Monday, he and President Nixon once discussed "the use of the Internal Revenue Service to attack our enemies" and that Mr. Nixon "seemed somewhat annoyed and said that the Democratic administrations had used this tool well and after the election we would get people in these agencies who would be responsive to White House requirements."

The memorandum from Caulfield to Dean indicates that Caulfield prepared a summary of prior audits of other persons in the entertainment industry "who were politically active during prior elections" and concluded: "The Wayne complaint when viewed in the attached context does not appear to be strong enough to pursue."

- An intelligence report from Caulfield to Dean about a Washington research center, Potomac Associates, headed by William Watts, a former aide to Dr. Henry Kissinger, who resigned his National Security Council post shortly after the May, 1970, American invasion of Cambodia.

Caulfield writes in the memo, dated July 6, 1971: "Building appears to have good security with guard present in lobby during day and evening hours. However, a penetration is deemed possible if required." Sources involved in the Watergate investigation confirmed that the White House conducted an investigation of Potomac Associates and said the word "penetration" referred either to a proposed burglary or entrance under false pretenses.

- A memo, apparently from Haldeman to Colson (it is initialed "H. H.," the abbreviation often used by Haldeman in informal correspondence) expressing interest in reading an FBI report on Pierre Salinger, the late President Kennedy's press secretary. The memo, dated July 29, 1971, states: "Chuck: According to Bob Bennett, his father, the Senator (Wallace Bennett of Utah), remarked that when Pierre Salinger was a candidate for U.S. Senate, the FBI ran a check on him, as Sen. Bennett says is customary . . . I'm broad-minded enough to want to read (it). This would be very useful in complementing the investigation DeMotte is pursuing . . ."

That investigation, according to sources involved in the Watergate case, was part of a White House project to assemble discrediting information about the Kennedy family — to offset the possible candidacy for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy for President.

The project was supervised by Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., who obtained information on the Kennedys from Clifton DeMotte, formerly a resident of Hyannisport, Mass., site of the Kennedy family compound.

- A memorandum to Dean indicating that the White House considered initiating antitrust action against The Los Angeles Times when it began publishing a new street sales edition. The memo, written on Dec. 1 1971, by David Wilson, an aide to Dean, says that the Justice Department had been consulted about possible action against the newspaper but that there appeared to be no grounds for action. (In testimony yesterday, Dean said he was instructed that a reporter for Newsday, a Long Island (N.Y.) daily owned by the same company as The Los Angeles Times, "should have some problems" with his tax returns because of a series of articles about Rebozo. Those articles appeared in October, 1971.

(In a memo from Caulfield to Dean dated Nov. 2, 1971, headed "LA Times antitrust action," Caulfield states that he "spoke with Lyn on this matter," apparently a reference to California Republican leader Lyn

All the Networks To Carry Hearings

The Senate Watergate committee will continue to hear testimony today from former presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

NBC-WRC (Channel 4), ABC-WMAL (Channel 7) and CBS-WTOP (Channel 9) will begin live coverage of the hearings at 10 a.m. WETA (Channel 26) will rebroadcast the hearings at 8 p.m.

Nofziger, who has long been associated with President Nixon. According to the memo, "Lyn . . . feels we should not precipitously move in this (antitrust) area until he completes his Newsday project which is moving along quickly." The "Newsday project" is not defined in the memo and neither Caulfield nor Nofziger was available for comment yesterday.)

- A memo from Colson to Dean recommending that the Justice Department, in an answer to a complaint from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, prosecute persons who stood in front of the Soviet Embassy and called for the Russians to send more surface-to-air missiles to Hanoi to shoot down United States aircraft.

"If VFW is given a brush-off reply," Colson says in the memo, "it is going to be hard to keep them exercised over these things in the future. Certainly Justice ought to at least indicate that they are looking into it. I realize it is also impossible to convict anyone of treason any more, but I see nothing wrong with our doing a little investigating and perhaps giving a little heart and comfort to our allies."