

## COLSON SAYS C.I.A. CONCERNED NIXON

Says President Feared Role  
by Agency in Watergate

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 24—Charles W. Colson said today that President Nixon "expressed concern" to him during a telephone conversation in January about the possibility that the Central Intelligence Agency had played a far greater role in the Watergate scandal than has been publicly revealed.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Colson said that the President had failed to take action against the C.I.A. because, "I don't think he felt that there were enough facts for him to act on it in any way."

Accounts of Mr. Colson's concern over the possible C.I.A. involvement in Watergate have been circulating for months throughout Washington, as well as the fact that he began discussion last month with a private detective about his concerns.

The New York Times, in an inquiry conducted last month, was unable to confirm that the C.I.A. had played a role in the planning of the Ellsberg burglary and Watergate break-in, as Mr. Colson is known to believe.

In addition, Mr. Colson has

told associates and newsmen in recent months that he believes that E. Howard Hunt Jr., the Watergate conspirator who worked in his White Office office in 1971, was planted there by the C.I.A. to keep watch on the President.

In a telephone interview, Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, chairman of the Intelligence Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, said that Mr. Colson's theories and materials "were nothing new."

"We've had all of this for months, and we have nothing to add to our original report," Mr. Nedzi said.

That report, filed after extensive closed hearings last summer, criticized the agency for allowing itself to be used by the White House in domestic intelligence activities, but cleared it of any active role.

"There's an implication [in the Colson theory] that Hunt was an active agent for the C.I.A. during these Watergate shenanigans," Mr. Nedzi said. "Of course that's not true."

Mr. Colson, who received a \$5,000 fine and a one-to-three-year prison sentence on an obstruction of justice charge on Friday, said that he believed the President had been dissuaded from taking any immediate steps to investigate the C.I.A. by Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff.

"He was concerned," Mr. Colson added, "and he also had had other similar reports. But he also was very concerned about doing anything that would have damaged our national intelligence capabilities."