SFChronicle Colson Says Ehrlichman Got Cash for Plumbers

Washington

Charles W. Colson testified yesterday that at John D. Ehrlichman's request he raised \$5000 for the White House Plumbers a few days before the Plumbers' agents vandalized a psychiatrist's office.

Colson, testifying publicly about a Watergate-related case for the first time, was the last major prosecution witness in the conspiracy case. The prosecution windup is expected tomorrow week earlier than had been forecast.

The six men and six women on the jury, and the six

alternates, were given the Fourth of July holiday off, after being admonished by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell "not to talk with anyone who visits you about what they heard or what they read."

Colson was dismissed as a defendant in the Plumbers and the Watergate coverup case when he pleaded guilty to another charge involving Ellsberg. He is to begin serving a 1-to-3 year sentence Monday at a federal detention center in the Baltimore area — so he can be available for other testi-Back Page Col. 6

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mony in the weeks to come.

Colson said he obtained the money from a public relations man for the American Milk Producers Association a major milk producer cooperative. The money was spent on the Sept. 3-4, 1971, break-in, other testimony has disclosed.

Colson said Ehrlichman didn't tell him what the money would be spent for. But, he said, Ehrlichman indicated that Egil Krogh Jr., one of the directors of the investigative squad, "needed it right away.'

Colson remembered the request as occurring in the last week of August or early September, 1971. On the Labor Day weekend, Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez and Felipe de Diego, under the supervision of E. Howard Hunt Jr. and G. Gordon Liddy, broke into the office of Dr. Lewis Fielding.

Ehrlichman, Barker, Martinez and Liddy are charged with conspiracy to violate Fielding's rights in their midnight raid looking for the files of a patient — Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg.

Colson said, "I was under some pressure" to get the money. He said when he told Ehrlichman he might have some trouble, the President's domestic aide told him, "Check with Bob him, Haldeman, he has a fund that can be drawn on."

H. R. (Bob) Haldeman then was Mr. Nixon's No. 1 aide.

But. Colson indicated. Haldeman turned him down and he called on Robert Baroody, who he said had raised money for him before.

After Ellsberg released the Pentagon Papers in June, 1971, Colson said, an effort was made to get out derogatory information about the former Rand Corporation analyst.

"There had been from time to time discussions between Mr. Ehrlichman and myself about the desire to get information out publicly about Dr. Ellsberg.

Colson added: "It was the President's desire and Dr. Henry Kissinger's desire and the desire of others to get out everything available; on Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers case.

"What kind of information?" Colson was asked.

"Any information that would bear on Dr. Ellsberg's motives on what had been done, those with whom he might have been active, an effort to counter public views he was expressing.

Asked whether that included derogatory information, Colson replied, "I think derogatory is a fair characterization . . . damaging to him, yes."

Colson came to court sporting a tieclip with the President's seal on it. He was a forthright witness, speaking rapidly and without hesitation.

He was asked about a series of memos that referred to "Hunt-Liddy special project No. 1" and said he had never heard the term before seeing the memos. One of them, from Ehrlichman, asked him to prepare a "game plan" for what could be done with the information gathered by the Plumbers.

Baroody is a member of a public relations firm on a retainer from the milk cooperative.

Colson said he asked for the money in cash, got it that way and had it delivered to Krogh's office.

Colson said he then called Murray Chotiner, a longtime Nixon campaign aide who died recently, and asked him whether his clients would contribute \$5000 for "a District of Columbia Political Committee."

That was done, Colson said, and Baroody was repaid.

In the week after the break-in, he said, he talked with Ehrlichman about the game plan memo and:

"Ehrlichman told there had been an attempt to get Dr. Ellsberg's psychiatric records - words to the effect 'the boys tried to get Ellsberg's records' - but that they had failed and said, in effect, to forget about the memo."

Q. Was anything else said about that?

A. Only that the matter was not to be discussed outside of that office with anyone else.

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