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# ABC Buys Colson's Word

New York

ABC television paid \$10,000 for Charles Colson's opinions of the H. R. Haldeman book that labeled Colson the "heavy" of the Nixon White House.

David Burke, an ABC vice president, said Colson was a consultant like other experts the network hires and that \$10,000 was less than what other networks have paid people.

He referred to Haldeman and Sirhan B. Sirhan, who both got sizable fees for on-camera interviews. NBC paid Sirhan about \$15,000 in 1969, and CBS paid Haldeman \$25,000 in 1975, raising protests about "check-book journalism."

ABC's arrangement with Colson did not purchase exclusive rights to his views of Haldeman's book, Burke noted. A spokesman for Colson said he

gave interviews to both other networks.

Burke said ABC planned to make extensive use of Colson and considered him a consultant, but that premature leaks from the Haldeman book forced a change in plans.

Colson appeared on the Good Morning America program, on February 16 on the evening news that day and in a 30-minute special the network broadcast that night.

"Even though we couldn't use him as we wanted to," Burke said, "We didn't think that was Colson's fault. "So the network paid the \$10,000."

The payment was to Prison Fellowship, the McLean, Va.-based Christian-oriented convict rehabilitation organization that Colson founded and works with, and not directly to Colson.

*Washington Post*