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PUTTING WATERGATE BEHIND US, CONT'D.

Publishers are apparently sick of Watergate, too, and latecomers such as Charles Colson and Watergate prosecutors James Neal and Richard Ben-Veniste found New York houses received their literary overtures coolly last month.

Colson, with the help of Washington attorney Kenneth Adams, wants to write only about his experience in government with no mention of his much-publicized Christian conversion. Why should anyone want to read yet another treatise on scandal?

"It's like this," says Colson's agent, "you have 50,000 people at a football game and everybody sees it in his own way."

Maybe. But one of the few whose book might still sell, John Dean, is putting his novel on ice to hurry work on his non-fiction book now that he is out of jail. He phoned none other than author Irving (The Fan Club) Wallace, told him he intended to become a professional writer, and asked for advice on his outline.