

Colson replaces Chotiner as Nixon's principal exponent of dirty tricks

WASHINGTON — "All they that take the sword shall perish with the sword," wrote Matthew, and it does seem likely that increased attention will eventually make presidential assistant Charles Colson so embarrassing a figure that Mr. Nixon can no longer afford to have him around.

Mr. Colson is Mr. Nixon's man of the sword; that is to say he has replaced Murray Chotiner as Mr. Nixon's principal exponent of dirty tricks. It is worth noting that at the very moment when Colson was being mentioned in the press in connection with the wire-tapping incident at the Democratic National Committee, he was also being mentioned in the press as one of those who traveled back to Washington with the President on the trip home from San Clemente.

Whether the President chose to have Colson with him because he likes his company or whether he decided that it might cast more suspicion upon Colson if Colson was suddenly dropped from the presidential entourage is a question which only Mr. Nixon could answer. But it is a fair bet that Colson is slated for the boondocks sooner or later if only because this is a campaign year and Democrats must take what ammunition is available. Colson provided them with a lot of it.

He was practicing law in Washington when he joined the White House team, and he first attracted the attention of the White House press corps as the silent manager of the Rev. Carl McIntire's descents upon Washington for a series of "win the war" rallies.

Dr. McIntire, who has become the virtually unchallenged leader of the country's radical right, seemed at the time to be a natural means to counter-

attack the peace demonstrators who were giving the President a hard time.

As the war went on and the temper of the country changed, he became obsolete, and his last rally here was a total flop. Colson provided liaison and encouragement to McIntire from the White House.

Subsequently, Colson was also revealed as having provided White House liaison for a series of advertisements linking Democratic senators campaigning for re-election in 1970 with legalized heroin, abandonment of war prisoners, immediate surrender and other outrageous or onerous ideas. Naturally, the senators protested. When the elections were over, former Atty. Gen. John Mitchell's Justice Department promised "an immediate investigation." The results were never revealed.



Charles Colson
Man of the sword