



AP Wirephoto

CHARLES COLSON
Dean blasted

Ex-Aide's Defense Of Nixon

Washington

Charles A. Colson, former special counsel to President Nixon, said yesterday the President was not involved in the Watergate scandal or any subsequent attempt to cover it up.

"I know the President of the United States was not involved in Watergate," Col-

son said. "I know the President of the United States was not involved in the Watergate coverup."

Colson made his defense of Mr. Nixon during an interview with ABC's Howard K. Smith.

Colson, who left the White House several months ago to return to private business, said that he felt certain of Mr. Nixon's innocence because he saw him every day during his White House tenure and spoke with the President frequently on the phone.

Colson also said he thought it would be "a splendid idea" if other persons connected with the Watergate case took lie detector test as he had done.

Colson added that he felt John W. Dean III, former presidential counsel, had made sensational charges against other Watergate figures simply to gain immunity.

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