

Colson: Nixon Blamed Funds

Shortly after the Watergate break-in, President Nixon blamed it on the misguided enterprise of his re-election committee which had too much money, according to a former aide.

Charles W. Colson was prepared to give that version of the President's reaction if he had testified before the Senate Watergate committee. Although he didn't, a draft of his proposed testimony was released yesterday by the House Judiciary Committee.

Colson said that two days after the June 17, 1972 break-in Mr. Nixon called him from Florida to find out what was going on. "In this and in subsequent conversations, he was quite obviously angered and incredulous that anyone even remotely involved with the presidential campaign apparatus could have engaged in such conduct," Colson wrote.

"He expressed his long-held belief that it was inadvisable to staff a campaign organization with people primarily concerned with their salaries; he said people should participate in a campaign because they believe in their cause. He said that the committee (the Committee for the Re-Election of the President) had too much money to spend, that the Watergate was an example of the kind of misguided enterprise that results from too much money."