

Does the President Fear the CIA?



— **Jack Anderson**

ON TAPE RECORDINGS made shortly before he began a federal prison term, Charles Colson said he believes the Central Intelligence Agency has evidence that still more campaign funds were diverted by the Nixon family for personal expenses.

The former White House aide said he thinks this is a major reason why President Nixon is afraid to make a thorough investigation of the CIA's mysterious role in Watergate.

Senate Watergate probers already have reported they found \$4562 in campaign money funneled by Nixon crony Charles "Bebe" Rebozo into such gifts as diamond-studded earrings for Pat Nixon.

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COLSON advanced his theory in three hours of talks with businessman-detective Richard Bast, who Colson approached to investigate the CIA. Such a probe, Colson felt, would show that the CIA framed him.

The ex-White House "dirty tricks" ringmaster said he was never able to convince the President to fire CIA director William Colby and put a Nixon man at the head of the CIA.

"They must certainly know something very heavy on Nixon," commented Bast who was secretly tape-recording Colson.

Colson, himself a deft bugger of con-

versations while at the White House, replied, "They must."

"I mean, if he knows this stuff is going on and he's not doing anything about it . . ." began Bast.

"You know what I think?" interrupted Colson. "You want to know what I really think? . . . I'm loyal to the guy (Mr. Nixon) 'cause he's my friend . . . I think Bebe used that (\$100,000) for himself and for the President, for the family, and the girls. I think that the President figures — this is my worst suspicion — that if he really blows this, Hughes can blow the whistle on him."

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AS COLSON saw it, however, it would be the CIA who put Hughes up to blowing the whistle. Hughes, Colson pointed out, had close organizational ties with the CIA. Bast asked whether the only thing the CIA had hanging over Mr. Nixon's head was the \$100,000. Replied Colson morosely:

"Who knows that that's THE ONLY \$100,000."

Colson is the first to suggest the CIA has undisclosed evidence of Nixon campaign fund misuse, but there have been reports of fund-juggling ever since he first told of the \$100,000 Hughes gift three years ago.