

[] filed Nix Ad w/ GATE

The White House "Attack Group"\* and Its Assignment

by John Osborne

[Reprinted from The New Republic]

.....

The senior attacker is Charles Colson, special counsel to the President, a lawyer who spends a lot of time with Mr. Nixon and none at all, nowadays, with reporters who have him rightly tagged as the assistant in charge of dirty tricks.

.....

The object is to depict [McGovern] as an inconsistent and unstable radical, a waffler, a shrill weakling who by nature and character is compelled to make the kind of mistakes he confessed to making in the 1960 Mundt campaign. The immediate architect of these tactics is Colson. The chief implementer and frequent deviser of them is [Ken] Clawson. The immediate overseer is Bob Haldeman. The actual and ever-watchful overseer of the entire operation is President Nixon.

.....

(Osborne also says of the reelection committee " .... where the strong White House <sup>hand</sup> is resented ... ")

(See also Evans and Novak, Wx Post 2 Nov 72.)

\*[Haldeman, Colson, Clawson, Buchanan, Wallace Johnson, William Timmons, Edward Faylor, Clark MacGregor, Albert E. Abrahams.]