

## Inside Watergate

Longer version filed w/gate.



### Jack Anderson

**T**HE FIRST MEMBER of Richard Nixon's tight inner circle to reach print, Charles "Chuck" Colson, has described what it was like inside the oval office during the Watergate years.

He has completed a compelling book called "Born Again," which is loaded with inside stories about Nixon, Spiro Agnew, Henry Kissinger, and other headline figures from the incredible Nixon era. We have obtained a bootleg copy of the book, which hasn't yet hit the bookstands.

Colson portrays Nixon as a shy, haunted man who got down on his knees at night to pray, yet a vicious, vindictive man who was eager to stomp on his enemies.

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**H**ERE ARE a few of the book's most startling revelations:

- As the specter of impeachment began to haunt Nixon, he became paranoid and suspected a conspiracy against him. He feared the special prosecutors were wiretapping the White House. He even came to believe his own aides and secretaries might be conspiring to bug him.

Once he took Colson to the Lincoln sitting room on the second floor of the White House to thwart the suspected eavesdroppers. "The problem, Chuck," he confided, "is that I don't think I can trust anybody. Not even the secretaries."

It turned out, ironically, that Nixon bugged himself and provided the prosecutors with the damning transcripts that brought his own downfall. But the President blamed his major domo, H.R. "Bob" Haldeman, for this. Nixon said: "They were all Haldeman's idea. Stupid, just stupid. I told Bob twice to have the system removed, but you know Bob. I forgot all about them."

- The ugly side of Nixon's nature showed itself on the presidential yacht Sequoia one balmy spring night. The President's staff began to talk about his enemies.

"One day we will get them," he vowed, "we'll get them on the ground where we want them. And we'll stick our heels in, step on them hard and twist — right, Chuck, right?"

Listening solemnly to this presidential diatribe were Kissinger, Haldeman, and John Ehrlichman. Only Ehrlichman looked away in apparent disagreement, Colson reports.

- This vengeful side of Nixon came out again when Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers. "I want him exposed, Chuck," said Nixon. "I don't care how you do it ... do you understand me? That's an order."

**Footnote:** We have made repeated calls to San Clemente for Nixon's comments. But he has offered no response.