

Colson Disclaims Enemies Lists

Washington

Charles W. Colson, the man described as author of many of the so-called enemies lists kept by the White House, said yesterday the whole matter had been blown out of proportion and that he didn't have anything to do with it anyway.

In a letter to members of the Senate Watergate committee, Colson said one of his White House staff assistants — now dead — had compiled some of the lists and others were lists he'd

The lists, containing the names of hundreds of businessmen, labor leaders, politicians, media figures and show business personalities, were given to the committee Wednesday by fired White House counsel John W. Dean III.

'CONFUSION'

"The way in which Mr. Dean introduced a series of exhibits into yesterday's committee hearing has unfortunately created considerable confusion . . ." Colson wrote the committee.

He said his deceased aide, George Bell, had compiled lists of both supporters and opponents of President Nixon but there was nothing odious about it.

"Frankly, I think it is quite appropriate for the President's staff not to want at a White House dinner, for example, someone who had signed an advertisement calling for the impeachment of the President or someone who had made a large contribution to help defeat the President in a political campaign," Colson said.

One list disclosed by Dean

named 20 people against whom specific adverse action was planned. It was called "Opponents Priority Activity."

"Mr. Dean suggests and most press accounts attribute the opponents priority activity list to me or my office," Colson said. "I do not know who prepared that document. I do know that I did not, nor did anyone on my staff. I have checked with Mr. Bell's secretary and determined it was not prepared by him.

"By confusing the list of 20 names with Mr. Bell's over-all list, Mr. Dean has very unfairly implicated Mr. Bell in something I suspect Mr. Bell was totally unaware of — and, of course, Mr. Bell cannot defend himself, a fact Mr. Dean well knows."

Associated Press