

SFChronicle A Furious Weicker Flays Colson

By Bob Woodward  
and Carl Bernstein  
Washington Post

Washington

Six-foot-six Republican Senator and outspoken Watergate investigator Lowell P. Weicker of Connecticut blew up yesterday morning.

On Thursday he had given his impassioned speech before national television, defending his party and damning those in the White House who created Watergate.

At 8 a.m. in his office in the Old Senate Office Building where his blue crew oar from Yale hangs behind his desk, Weicker met with former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson, who, according to many allegations, was the master dirty trickster.

Colson had come to smooth the waters that Weicker had been churning smooth the waters that Weicker had been churning for months. Colson came to protest his innocence, as he has done so often.

The meeting lasted only 12 minutes. Colson said Weicker must be carrying a "grudge" of some sort, according to written notes provided to the Washington Post by a participant in the meeting.

"I don't have any grudge against you," Weicker said. "I don't know you . . . but I do know what you stand for, Mr. Colson, and we live in two different worlds. I deal in hard-nosed politics . . . you deal in crap."

Colson, accompanied to the meeting by law partner David Shapiro, said he had nothing to do with drafting an enemies list of Nixon administration opponents who would be targeted for unfavorable action by government agencies.

"Oh," said Weicker, who then asked about a memo Colson had allegedly written last year requesting an Internal Revenue Service audit of a Teamster union official who opposed the President.

"Well, yes," Colson said, he had written that particular memo, which was given to the Watergate committee by former presidential counsel John W. Dean III.

"Well, that is just great, Mr. Colson," Weicker said. "Let me tell you something . . . you make me sick. That's just disgusting — the kind of things you suggest in that memo. You can just get your ass out of my office, because you make me sick and I don't even want you in here."

Weicker then jumped to his feet, according to two separate accounts of the meeting.

"Go ahead," the hulking senator said pointing to the large mahogany door. "You can leave now, because I just don't even want to talk to you any more."

Colson, the quick talker, was stunned, according to two accounts. "Colson was led from the room like a punch-drunk fighter," according to one of Weicker's staff members.

Shapiro, who has been personally acting as Colson's attorney as the allegations of unsavory activity mount against Colson, said, "I have nothing whatever to say" about the meeting with Weicker.

On Thursday, Weicker accused Colson of trying to influence the committee by planting a phony story with reporters that Weicker had improperly handled campaign contributions to his 1970 election campaign in Connecticut.

Colson, who is expected to be a witness before the Watergate committee in the near future, issued a denial of the charge on Thursday saying, "At no time have I ever tried to interfere with the activities of the Senate committee . . . I know of nothing improper or any way out of the ordinary with respect to any assistance Sen. Weicker received from any Republican organization in 1970 . . . nor have I ever suggested there was."

However, a former White House assistant acknowledged yesterday that he had been asked to provide information for the White House that could be used to dis-



AP Wirephoto

Senator Lowell Weicker carried out the garbage at his Arlington home early yesterday morning.

credit Weicker.

The ex-aide, Jack Gleason, said the requests had been initiated by Lawrence Higby, the principal assistant of former White House chief of staff H.R. Halde- man, and that Higby had pressed for information that would indicate Weicker had mishandled campaign contributions.

Gleason, who worked on campaign financing matters as a member of the White House staff, said Higby's re-

quests for information to discredit Weicker were transmitted to him in March and April by Harry Dent, formerly one of President Nixon's principal political strategists and now an attorney in private practice in South Carolina.

"Both Harry and I agreed that this (Higby's request) was asinine, really stupid and neither of us gave him anything," said Gleason, now a partner in a Washington consulting firm.



AP Wirephoto

REP. LUCIEN NEDZI AND CHARLES COLSON  
Congressman told news media of ex-White House aide's testimony