

SF Chronicle

Colson

Hints Dean
Was Lying

Washington

Charles W. Colson, the former White House aide, said yesterday that President Nixon had complained to him of not being told the truth about the Watergate scandal even after John W. Dean III supposedly had disclosed all the facts to the President.

Interviewed on the CBS television program "Face the Nation," Colson intimated that Dean had lied when he testified before the Senate Watergate Committee last week that he had told the President on March 21 all he knew of the Watergate break-in and coverup.

That was the day that Dean, according to his testimony, met with the President and told him "there was a cancer on the Presidency" and then informed him of all that he knew about Watergate.

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That evening, Colson said yesterday, the President phoned him "and said to me that he had to get to the bottom of the Watergate himself, he had to find out the truth, he had to find out what was going on.

"He knew at that point he was not being told the truth,

that he was being given confusing information," Colson said.

There were these other developments yesterday in the Watergate case:

- The special Watergate prosecutor, Archibald Cox, was reported to be investigating reports that Teamsters union officials sought contributions to the Nixon re-election campaign from "individuals in the Las Vegas area."

- Senator Hubert Humphrey (Dem-Minn.) said that President Nixon should tell his version of the Watergate affair under oath even though it would cause problems for the separation of powers doctrine.

- The director of the 1972 McGovern presidential campaign said that President Nixon would have won the election even if the Democrats had made better use of the Watergate issue.

Colson, who resigned earlier this year as special White House counsel, charged that there was a conspiracy by people who knew the facts of the Watergate scandal not to tell the President anything about it.

"I think at the very center of that conspiracy to keep the truth away from the President was John Dean," he said.

The President, Colson said, probably does not know yet who ordered the original break-in at the Democratic party's Watergate headquarters.

The current issue of Time magazine, which will be out today says that Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor,

is investigating reports that the Teamsters union used influence to collect as much as \$600,000 for President Nixon's re-election campaign "from individuals in the Las Vegas area who had received loans from the union's welfare plan."

There had been previous reports of alleged illegal donations to the Nixon campaign from Las Vegas gambling interests who owed money to the Teamsters pension fund. These reports have not been verified and have been denied by Teamster officials.

According to Time, Teamster officials said that union leaders friendly to former Teamster President James Hoffa actively sought campaign funds for the President after Colson "hinted that, in return for their support, the bars on Hoffa's union activities might be lifted."

Gary Hart, the director of the McGovern campaign last year, said in an interview with the Associated Press yesterday, that "we should have pushed harder" to get the Watergate story to the American people before the election.

Senator Humphrey, once Vice President of the United States, made his comments on NBC's television program "Meet the Press."

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