

'IRS Inquiry'

Oldsters Called A Colson Target

Washington

Charles W. Colson, the former special counsel to President Nixon, instructed another member of the White House staff to ask the Internal Revenue Service for the names of contributors to the National Council of Senior Citizens, according to a deposition filed yesterday in United States District Court here.

The deposition was taken from Roy Kinsey, a former member of the staff of John W. Dean III, the former White House counsel.

Colson wanted to know who the contributors were, according to the deposition, because "this outfit is giving us trouble." The council has worked for higher social security benefits, a system of national health insurance and other legislation for the elderly.

The deposition also said that Colson ordered inquiries made about the possibility of challenging the tax-exempt status of two other organizations which were in conflict with the Nixon Administration, Common Cause and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

STATEMENT

Kinsey's statement supported a statement made by Dean to the Senate Watergate Committee, namely, that there were "a number of requests" from Colson to Dean "regarding the tax-exemption status of groups that did have tax exemptions that were opposed to presidential policy."

Four such requests from Colson to Dean were handed on to him, Kinsey said in the deposition.

In addition to the inquiries concerning the three organizations that were opposing administration policies, Kinsey said he was also asked to look into the cause of an apparent delay in the granting of tax-exempt status to a California Republican group, whose name Kinsey said he did not remember.

Kinsey's deposition was taken in connection with a lawsuit filed by the Center on Corporate Responsibility — which has charged that political influence caused top officials of Internal Revenue to deny it tax-exempt status — after the staff of the agency had decided it was qualified for tax-exemption. Lawyers for the center are attempting to demonstrate that there was a pattern of White House interference in tax-exemption cases.

AIDE

Kinsey stated that he had been instructed by Dean to talk to Roger V. Barth, deputy chief counsel of Internal Revenue, whenever he had a "sensitive" matter to discuss.

The Center on Corporate Responsibility has charged that Barth was the contact man for the White House in IRS and that it was he who overruled the staff technicians at Internal Revenue on the center's application for tax-exemption.

Kinsey said he was not able to get for Colson the information he wanted on contributors to the National Council of Senior Citizens because the law requires reporting, by name only, of contributors of \$5000 or more and the organization reported no contributions that large.

Kinsey also did nothing further about Colson's request to check into the tax-exempt status of Common Cause, after ascertaining that the organization, which calls itself a citizens' lobby, has only a limited type of tax exemption that permits it to lobby and engage in other political activities.

Colson's request to look into the tax-exempt status of Common Cause came after that organization filed a lawsuit aimed at forcing disclosure of the names of contributors to the Republican campaign organizations

during the period before the present, stricter campaign finance-reporting law went into effect.

The deposition did not disclose what action, if any, Kinsey took with respect to the Vietnam Veterans against the War.

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