

A Report on Colson and a Crime Probe

Washington

The Washington Post said yesterday it has obtained white House documents showing that former presidential counsel Charles W. Colson had agreed to intervene in a criminal investigation of a New York union official.

The newspaper said the documents show that Colson agreed to help Daniel F. Gagliardi, a Westchester county, N.Y., union official, after the Justice Department said in January his indictment was imminent on alleged Teamsters Union extortion activities in the New York area.

The newspaper said Gagliardi "is a close associate of John (Buster) Ardito, a member of the Mafia 'family' once headed by the late Vito Genovese. . . ."

"On of the White House memos to Colson from one of his aides discussed the possibility of Gagliardi being indicted and conveyed to Colson Gagliardi's personal plea that he 'be gotten off the hook!'" the newspaper said.

It said a handwritten res-



CHARLES COLSON
White House papers

ponse from Colson to the aide said: "Watch for this. Do all possible." The word "all" was underlined, it said.

Gagliardi was not indicted and the case was dropped.

The Post story said Justice Department prosecutors who handled the case said they received no pressure to stop the probe, and that there is no evidence to indicate otherwise.

Colson resigned his White House position earlier this year to enter private law practice and the Washington Post said one of his first clients was the Teamsters union.

United Press