

Colson Starts His Prison Term

He Says He'll Give New Data

McLean, Va.

Charles W. Colson said yesterday he will offer new information about Watergate to the House Judiciary Committee, but he refused to say whether the information would be helpful or harmful to his former boss, President Nixon.

Colson left his home in the Washington suburb of McLean and surrendered at a "classified" location in Baltimore to begin a one-to-three-year prison sentence at Ft. Holabird, Md.

He pleaded guilty June 3 to charges of obstruction of justice in his attempts to leak information critical of Daniel Ellsberg during Ellsberg's trial for releasing the Pentagon Papers to newspapers.

Colton told reporters gathered in his driveway that he felt about prison like the W. C. Fields character who was tarred and feathered and run out of town: "If it wasn't for the honor I'd just as soon avoid it."

At one time Colson was quoted as saying he would walk over his grandmother



CHARLES COLSON (CENTER) WALKED TO HIS CAR AS HIS WIFE WAVED TO REPORTERS. They were leaving their home to drive to Baltimore, where Colson surrendered to federal officials.

LPI Talarhais

to get Mr. Nixon re-elected. Since then, Colson has said he found Christianity.

He said the only reading matter he will take to prison is "a couple of editions of the Bible."

The former presidential counsel avoided repeated questions about the nature

of his new information.

When asked if his testimony would touch matters not discussed by various congressional committees and grand juries in their investigations of Watergate, Colson said only, "Yes."

Told of Colson's statement about testifying before the

committee, special counsel John Doar said, "That's news to me."

When pressed about how the information would affect President Nixon, Colson said, "It's information that I hope will be helpful to the country in getting over the agonies of Watergate."

He said the information would in part deal with his relationship with Mr. Nixon, "which was and is very close."

Colson said he spent his last night of freedom going out to dinner with his wife and some close friends.

Mrs. Colson, who stood be-

side her husband, said the family will carry on while her husband is away and "everything will be shipshape when he gets back."

Colson said he felt "a great deep sense of gratitude" to the thousands of people who have sent him messages of encouragement.

"I've really learned the Americans have a warm heart," Colson said.

Colson said he has no firm plans after he eventually leaves prison.

"It will just be nice to come home," he said. "I do want to do some lay missionary work."

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