



Charles W. Colson displaying his White House appointment book, with Nixon "hard hat" sticker, during testimony before the House Judiciary Committee yesterday.

The New York Times/George Tames

Colson Testimony Seen As Having Little Impact

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 16—

Charles W. Colson completed today two days of testimony before the House Judiciary Committee without reportedly affecting the case for the impeachment of President Nixon.

When Mr. Colson pleaded guilty to obstruction of justice last month and promised to cooperate fully with the prosecutors and the impeachment inquiry, many critics of the President suggested it might be the biggest break of all in the case against Mr. Nixon.

By contrast, the President's supporters hoped that Mr. Colson, the President's former special counsel and a political insider who had ready access to the Oval Office, would be able to provide conclusive evidence that would exonerate Mr. Nixon of complicity in various scandals.

By the accounts of Republicans and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, neither proved to be the case.

No Solid Knowledge

Mr. Colson, they said, stated time and again his view that the President was innocent of wrongdoing, but the members agreed that Mr. Colson had been expressing an opinion and did not have solid knowledge to back it up.

When Mr. Colson left the witness table at about 6 o'clock tonight, he was replaced by Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's former personal lawyer who had also been a key campaign fund raiser.

Both men are currently serving prison sentences — Mr. Colson, one to three years for obstruction of justice, and Mr. Kalmbach, six to 18 months for violating election laws and promising an ambassadorship as a reward for a campaign contribution.

Mr. Kalmbach gave broad sworn testimony to the Senate Watergate committee about his efforts to raise and distribute money to the Watergate burglars and about the events surrounding the President's 1971 decision to raise milk price supports.

Use of Hughes Funds

He also told the Senate investigators, in testimony that has not been corroborated, that some of the \$100,000 in cash given by Howard R. Hughes, the billionaire, to the President's friend, Charles G. Rebozo, might have been used for the personal benefit of the President, his family and his friends.

Judiciary Committee members hoped to elicit an answer from Mr. Kalmbach to a broader question that could be critical to the impeachment inquiry: How much attention did the President himself pay to his personal finances and tax returns.

Most committee members apparently believe that, for the panel to conclude that the President's financial irregularities should be incorporated in an article of impeachment, there must be conclusive proof that the President and not merely financial advisers were culpable.

As the President's former

lawyer, Mr. Kalmbach presumably has a good grasp of how the President's finances were handled.

Long Session With Colson

The 38 committee members questioned Mr. Colson from 9 A.M. until 6 P.M. with an hour off for lunch and repeated breaks for votes on the House floor.

Two weeks ago, the House rejected a move by the committee's chairman, Representative Peter W. Rodino Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, to obtain a waiver of the rule allowing each member five minutes to question each witness.

In his second day before the committee, Mr. Colson reportedly defended President Nixon on a range of issues.

He reportedly acknowledged that he warned Mr. Nixon in early 1973 that his top aides were covering up high-level involvement in the Watergate burglary. But Mr. Colson is said to have speculated that Mr. Nixon had probably not believed him because of a long-standing rivalry between Mr. Colson and John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General and campaign director.

Contradicting the sworn testimony of John W. Dean 3d, Mr. Colson said that he had never talked with the President or anyone else about the possibility of granting executive clemency to E. Howard Hunt Jr., a convicted Watergate conspirator.

Mr. Dean, who had been the White House legal counsel, told the Senate Watergate committee last summer and reportedly testified before the Judiciary Committee last week that he met with Mr. Colson and John D. Ehrlichman on Jan. 3, 1973, in Mr. Ehrlichman's office and that Mr. Colson had argued that Mr. Hunt should be given some assurance of clemency.

Mr. Dean said that Mr. Ehrlichman had advised Mr. Colson not to bring the matter up with the President, but Mr. Colson did so anyway and told Mr. Dean about it the next day.

In their March 21, 1973, conversation, Mr. Dean, according to the transcript, told Mr. Nixon, "As you know, Colson has talked to, indirectly to, Hunt about commutation."

A few moments later, Mr. Nixon mentioned that he had once discussed Mr. Hunt's problems with someone he did not identify and added, "I said, of course, commutation could be considered on the basis of his wife, and that is the only discussion I ever had in that light."

Mr. Dean also testified that at their meeting on the night of April 15, 1973, the President "went behind his chair to the corner of the Executive Office Building office and in a barely audible tone said to me he was probably foolish to have discussed Hunt's clemency with Colson."

The White House has said that conversation was never recorded, as the recording system had run out of tape.

Nixon-Colson Tape Denied

The Judiciary Committee has subpoenaed the tape of Mr. Nixon's Jan. 4, 1973, conversation with Mr. Colson, which presumably would show conclusively whether the two men discussed clemency and, if so, what the President's position was. The President has refused to comply with the subpoena.

On another matter, Mr. Colson reportedly testified today that the President promised nothing in return in 1971 dairy cooperatives pledged \$2-million for his re-election effort.

There have been sworn allegations that in return for the pledge the President agreed to raise the milk price-support level and that, before the President acted, Mr. Colson was instructed to solicit a reaffirmation of the pledge.

On the question of the Administration's relationship with the International Telephone and Telegraph Company, Mr. Colson is said to have insisted again that he knew of no wrongdoing by the President.

'Involve the President'

In March, 1972, Mr. Colson wrote a memorandum saying that there were documents that would "directly involve the President" in illicit dealings with the company.

Mr. Colson reportedly told the committee that he wrote the memorandum to the President's chief of staff, H. R. Haldeman, because he wanted, for political reasons, to persuade the President to withdraw Richard G. Kleindienst's nomination to be Attorney General.

Committee members said that he had given no indication that there were any such damaging documents.

Before the session began this morning, Mr. Colson, a recent convert to evangelical Christianity, was asked how his testimony was going.

In response, he told reporters, "All you have to do is read John, Chapter 8, Verse 31."

In that passage, Jesus says, "The truth will set you free."

72-Year Traffic Toll

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—The National Automobile Club reports that more than 1.9 million people died in the United States as a result of motor vehicle accidents from 1900 through 1972.