

Colson's Choices For 'Plumbers'

Washington

Former White House counsel Charles Colson in 1971 recommended that E. Howard Hunt Jr. work with the White House "Plumbers"—but he also recommended several others, including Representative Samuel S. Stratton (Dem-N.Y.).

Colson listed these names in a memo to then White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman on July 2, 1971, only days after Mr. Nixon created the special investigative unit to plug news leaks.

The memo was released Thursday as part of the House Judiciary Committee's impeachment inquiry evidence.

In addition to Hunt, Colson also named, with these thumbnail descriptions:

- Russ Blandford, staff director of the House Armed Services Committee: "He is tough as nails and very discreet."

- Cartha D. DeLoach, former assistant FBI director, then with Pepsi Cola: "He is a really shrewd operator."

- Ben Gilleas, staff mem-

ber of the Senate Armed Services Committee: "A good, plodding effective guy. (He could work under someone, but I doubt his personality would make it with the President's; Blandford's would)."

- Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian: "One you've thought about."

- White House speechwriter Patrick J. Buchanan (no description).

- Stratton: "This is just his meat. He is articulate and ambitious and although he is a Democrat, he's totally on our side on these issues."

In Albany, N.Y., Stratton said disclosure that the White House considered him to head the Plumbers unit had so angered him that he is disclosing publicly that "I am leaning towards impeachment" of President Nixon.

He added: "In view of the attempt to associate me with the Plumbers, which of course is fantastic and absurd, I ought to make clear that I am my own man."

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