

WXPast

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Colson Lawyer Clarifies Statement on Burger

United Press International

Charles W. Colson's lawyer says the former White House special council does not know whether President Nixon actually spoke with Chief Justice Warren E. Burger about a suit to obtain his Watergate tape recordings.

According to Ken Adams, a member of Colson's former law firm, Colson said Nixon said only:

"I think we'll really win in the Supreme Court. Burger things this whole thing is a disgrace."

Adams said Colson did not know whether Nixon had spoken directly with Burger, or whether the former President had drawn a conclusion based on second-hand information.

In response to a request by UPI, Adams spoke by phone Thursday with Colson about allegations former White House counsel John W. Dean III made Tuesday in a television interview. *14 JAN*

Dean said that while both men were imprisoned at Ft.

Holabird, Md., Colson said Nixon expected the Supreme Court to let him keep his White House tapes secret.

According to Adams, Colson based his statement on his notes of a late evening conversation with Nixon on Dec. 18, 1973, several months after Colson had left the White House and during the period the Senate Watergate committee was attempting to obtain the tapes.

During the furor that followed Nixon's firing of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox in October, 1973, Nixon turned a few tapes over to the prosecutors. The Senate panel failed in the courts to gain access to the recordings.

Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski filed suit in April, 1974, to obtain many more tapes for evidence in the Watergate cover-up trial. The Supreme Court sustained Jaworski in an 8 to 0 decision—with Burger voting—in July, and a month later, Nixon resigned.

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