

Colson Celebrates Release

Former Nixon White House aide Charles W. (Chuck) Colson celebrated his early release from federal prison with a steak dinner at the Palm Restaurant Saturday night, where some of his friends and former law associates gave him a piece of cheesecake with a file imbedded in it and the waiters sang "For Chuck's a Jolly Good Fellow."

One member of the party went to neighboring tables

and asked if anyone needed a cake with a saw in it. Others told about visiting Colson in prison at Maxwell Air Force Base near Montgomery, Ala., and smuggling in trays of fresh shrimp to him. His friends also told of using influence to try to get Colson released early from prison.

The Colson party, which included his wife, Pat, caressed under the eyes of a bronze bust of retired Sen.

Sam Ervin, who headed the Watergate committee.

Colson was released from prison Friday after serving nearly seven months of a one-to-three-year jail term for obstruction of justice on the orders of U.S. Judge Gerhard A. Gessell.

When he returned to his McLean home Friday night, Colson told reporters he plans to devote as much time as he can to religious work.