

# Colson Can't Recall Comment on Hiss

Washington

Former White House aide Charles Colson said yesterday he has "no recollection" that Richard Nixon ever suggested that crucial evidence in the Alger Hiss case had been "phonied."

Colson commented in response to a book by former Nixon counsel John Dean, which told of a purported conversation about the Hiss case between Colson and his then-boss, Mr. Nixon.

According to the Dean book, Mr. Nixon told Colson: "The typewriters are always the key. We built one in the Hiss case." (An old Woodstock typewriter was important evidence in the perjury conviction of Hiss.)

Colson said he remembers no such conversation.

If Mr. Nixon had made such a remark, Colson said, he believes the former President would have meant that the case against Hiss was built on the evidence of the typewriter.

"I do recall extensive conversa-

tions with Mr. Nixon regarding the typewriter analysis, its reliability and the great lengths to which the FBI went to verify its analysis," Colson said. "I do not believe at any time I conveyed any other impression to Mr. Dean."

In Los Angeles, Dean continued to refuse to talk to the press, contending that his contract with his publisher, Simon and Schuster, bars it. However, he authorized his literary agent, David Obst, to say:

"John has checked his notes and the conversation (between Colson and Dean) did take place and the story holds up. John is not responsible for the veracity of Colson's conversation, but it's in his (John's) notes. He stands by the story."

However, about the suggestion that evidence in the Hiss case had been phonied, Obst also said for Dean:

"There's nothing in the book that would lead you to that conclusion."

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