SFChronicle DEC 8 1976 Praying for Carter

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Watergate figure Charles W. Colson said yesterday fellow "born-again" Christian Jimmy Carter will find it hard to maintain his religious commitment "amid the idol worship that goes on in Washington."

Colson, a former White House aide who was convicted and imprisoned for his role in the Watergate scandal, said he prays that president-elect Carter will survive the forthcoming attacks on his faith.

"If there is one place in the world where everything is there to separate a man from a relationship with God, it is Washington, D.C., and particularly the White House," Colson said. "Everybody is bowing and scraping and you begin to think you are God.

"One of the most difficult things for a man who has been born again is to maintain that belief amid the idol worship that goes on in Washington. I pray for Governor Carter that he'll be able to do so."

United Press