

Colson Takes a Slap at

San Antonio

Charles Colson, who became a "born-again" Christian after taking part in the Watergate scandal, lashed out from the pulpit yesterday at H. R. Haldeman's Watergate book, calling it erroneous throughout and a disservice to the public.

Colson, who was a special counsel to President Richard Nixon, joined the Southern Baptist Convention before serving seven months in prison for Watergate-related convictions.

Yesterday, he delivered a sermon at the First Baptist Church in San Antonio, then added his critique of Haldeman's "The Ends of Power."

Colson has also written a book, "Born Again," about Watergate and his religious conversion.

Haldeman served as chief of staff in the Nixon administration and was convicted Jan. 1, 1975, for his part in the Watergate affair. He is serving his sentence in a California prison.

Haldeman From the Pulpit

Colson told churchgoers he had found at least 25 major errors of fact in Haldeman's book.

Haldeman wrote that the original break-in at the Watergate complex was carried out under instructions from Nixon to Colson to get information concerning a link between Democratic National Committee Chairman Lawrence O'Brien and the late multimillionaire Howard Hughes.

"That's untrue," Colson said. "We already had that information."

Haldeman also wrote that Nixon often gave instructions directly to Colson because Colson was more apt to follow them.

But Colson said, "Haldeman always knew about the orders and he never told me not to follow them."

"We (Watergate principals) should stop blaming each other and take responsibility for our own actions," he told the congregation. "I have admitted the mistakes I made."

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