

19 JULY 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Testimony of Charles Colson Regarding
CIA Involvement in Watergate

1. Attached is an extract from Charles Colson's testimony under oath on 19 June 73 before the CIA Oversight Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Colson transcript, incidentally, was recently received from the Special Prosecutor's Office along with other documents and transcripts with the request that this material be sanitized for possible use in the Watergate trial scheduled for September.

2. I consider the attached exchange between Senator Young and Mr. Colson important because it indicates that only one year ago, after he resigned from the White House staff and became a "child of Christ", Mr. Colson had no reason to suspect CIA of any significant involvement in Watergate. This is in sharp contrast to recent statements he has made directly to the media or via Mr. Richard Bast, a private investigator, that CIA was deeply enmeshed in Watergate events, as Mr. Colson alleged in a TV interview on 7 June 1974.

3. What this means is that unless Mr. Colson has come upon some new and hitherto unpublicized evidence since leaving the White House staff, he actually knows no more about CIA than he did in June of 73 when he admitted that his knowledge of CIA involvement in Watergate was "mostly hearsay."

4. It would appear prudent and timely to invite the attention of our oversight committees and, perhaps, several selected media representatives to the attached exchange between Senator Young and Mr. Colson.



(b)(3)

Attachment as noted

~~EXECUTIVE REGISTRY~~

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(b)(3)

PURPORTED ATTEMPT TO INVOLVE THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY IN THE WATERGATE AND ELLSBERG INCIDENTS

Tuesday, June 19, 1973

U. S. Senate,
Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations,
Washington, D. C.

Excerpt - line 22 page 456 through line 4 page 458

Senator Young. I have just one or two short questions.

What was the total, total CIA involvement in Watergate as well as the Ellsberg affair? Was it more than obtaining equipment?

Mr. Colson. The only thing I know, Senator, that the CIA was involved in as a specific project was a psychiatric or psychological profile, which, I understood from the memorandum I received from Mr. Young and Mr. Krogh -- I had understood that the CIA was conducting that. I had heard discussions of it. I really have no direct knowledge of CIA involvement. As I have testified, it was my impression that Mr. Hunt was in communication with the CIA during the period that he was on the White House staff but I am not personally aware of it.

Senator Young. There is former testimony to the effect that Mr. Hunt was in contact with them. I don't know of any other testimony that linked the CIA with the Ellsberg case where CIA officials themselves were involved in it. Maybe I am wrong.

Mr. Colson. I have no knowledge other than what I have said. The only direct knowledge I have is the one memorandum which I received indicating that the CIA was working with Mr. Krogh's unit in terms of the psychological profile and, of course, whatever conversations I had with Mr. Ehrlichman, whenever they were.

Senator Young. You said: when the CIA was involved in this. Whom do you mean in CIA, which officials in CIA?

Mr. Colson. I don't know, sir. I had no contact with the CIA during this period. As I have said in my statement, I did not even know of the existence of the meetings with the CIA following the Watergate.

Senator Young. Your testimony would seem to indicate that your knowledge of the CIA involvement is mostly hearsay, then?

Mr. Colson. Yes, sir.

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