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Dwight L. Chapin

White House Aide Is Said To Quit Post

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N. Y. Times News Service

Washington—Dwight L. Chapin, President Nixon's appointments secretary, who has been linked to political espionage activities of the Republican reportedly decided to leave the can reelection committee, has White House staff.

One high-ranking Administration official said Chapin was being forced to leave as a result of newspaper disclosures naming him as the White House contact with Donald H. Segretti, a California lawyer who has said he played a key role in what he described as Republican efforts to disrupt the Democratic primaries and harass Democratic presidential candidates.

A former White House associate of Chapin also said, "Dwight's going to be leaving." He said he had heard that Chapin was being forced out.

Rejected Offers

Friends of Chapin, 32, say he has rejected or discouraged offers from defense industries for \$70,00 a year or more, far above his current salary, because the positions would have involved lobbying.

Chapin was first linked to the Watergate episode last Oct. 15 when it was reported that a friend of Segretti had cited Chapin as the chief Washington contact for an espionage operation financed by the Republicans.

Segretti was said to have been involved in a massive campaign of political spying and sabotage financed from a tehn-secret campaign fund of the Committee to Reelect the President and directed in part by the White House.

Telephone Calls

Two days later the Times reported that Segretti had made at least six long-distance telephone calls to the White House and another call to Chapin's suburban Maryland home between mid-March and June 23. Segretti was initially questioned by FBI agents about his activities.

The White House denounced the published reports at the time as hearsay but refused to answer any specific questions or to deny the accounts categorically.

Up to now, White House officials have repeatedly said they did not know either about Segretti's espionage activities or the political intelligence operation headed by E. Howard Hunt, a former White House consultant, that ultimately resulted in the break-in last June 17 on the Democratic National Committee offices in the Watergate complex here.

Hunt and six others, including five men arrested by the police inside the Democratic offices, were indicted by a federal grand jury on a variety of criminal charges stemming from the break-in. Five men have pleaded guilty thus far in the trial now under way in the United States district court here.

Chapin was graduated in 1963 from the University of Southern California, where he was active in a conservative political organization whose members in the early 1960s included Segretti and many current White House staff members. Chapin has acknowledged knowing Segretti "since college days."