

Watergate Mystery Man Identified

By Jack Anderson
and Les Whitten

We can now identify the mysterious man of the Watergate investigation, referred to in Senate testimony as "Chapman's friend," who spied on the George McGovern camp for President Nixon during the 1972 campaign.

He is the respected foreign correspondent Seymour Freidin, who covered the Battle of Berlin and later became executive foreign editor for the New York Herald Tribune. He now heads the Hearst newspaper's London office.

He was not employed by Hearst, however, while he was a political spy, but was a freelance writer. Nor were the Hearst editors aware of his secret role until we notified them.

Not even the Senate Watergate investigators have been able to identify the mysterious "Chapman's friend." They mistakenly thought columnist-author Victor Lasky was the spy and sent two investigators to interview him.

The code name "Mr. Chapman" was adopted during the 1972 campaign by President Nixon's veteran political aide Murray Chotiner. It was the same code name that the late Gov. Tom Dewey used to identify himself in phone calls to Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon during the 1952 campaign.

As the 1972 "Mr. Chapman," Chotiner submitted secret reports on the McGovern campaign to the Nixon managers.

These reports included political intelligence from two undercover correspondents who were identified only as "Chapman's friend."

One was Lucy Goldberg who divulged her Mata Hari role earlier this month. She traveled on the McGovern campaign plane as a book writer and free-lance contributor to North American Newspaper Alliance and Women's News Service. The other press spy, who had escaped identification until now, was the more secretive Freidin. Each collected \$1,000 a week from Chotiner.

Confronted with the results of our investigation, Chotiner acknowledged that Freidin was hired by him as a "reporter" during "a portion of the Democratic primaries and a portion of the time after the McGovern nomination."

After three days of overseas calls we located Freidin in the Mediterranean. "What I was trying to do," he said, "was to pull a Joe McGinnis." McGinnis worked for the Nixon advertising campaign in 1968 and wrote an inside account called "Selling of the President."

Freidin said he also had intended to write an "inside book," but vigorously denied that he was a spy. "I never spied," he said. "I gave my unvarnished views which (Attorney General John) Mitchell told Chotiner were junk."

Freidin said that he submitted both verbal and written reports and that Mitchell complained to Chotiner that he had read the same information in the newspapers. Freidin said

that "for a long time I took no money." His total take after he began collecting a salary, he said, amounted to \$10,000 or \$11,000.

Footnote: Apparently, we were among those who were duped by Freidin during the 1972 campaign. He frequently visited us and pumped us for campaign information. He also pleaded with us to give his son Joshua a chance to accompany us to Miami Beach for the Democratic convention. We paid Joshua to be a messenger, and he had the run of our Miami Beach offices throughout the convention.

Dubious Detergent — Under pressure from the soap makers, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has promised to make a fast decision on the safety of the detergent additive NTA, even though NTA may cause cancer.

Detergents containing NTA were yanked off the market in 1970 when a growing mass of data indicated the chemical might cause cancer and birth defects. A scientific task force was set up to find out just how dangerous the chemical is.

When NTA was first introduced, Procter & Gamble boasted that it eliminated the need for phosphate in laundry powders. NTA and phosphates both get clothes clean. Phosphates, however, contribute to a process called eutrophication — the elimination of oxygen from waterways which makes it impossible for streams and lakes to support life.

In June, New York State

joined Indiana and Dad's County, Fla., in banning the sale of phosphate detergents. This triggered new pressure from the soapers to bring back NTA.

At a hush-hush meeting in Washington several weeks ago, HEW capitulated, and agreed to give an early answer despite a gaping lack of research. For the fact is that HEW is far from completing its probe of NTA's possible pernicious effects.

"The bulk of the data will be available by early 1974," Dr. David Rall of the National Institute of Environmental Health said. "Presumably, we will be able to reach a decision then."

But sources close to the NTA evaluation have told us that scientists have yet to devise some of the tests that must be performed to ascertain how dangerous NTA may be.

Dr. Samuel Epstein of Case Western Reserve University, one of the nation's foremost experts in the field, told us that despite HEW's claims, researchers have made little real progress on learning the effects of NTA since the chemical was banned.

He acknowledged that private studies have been completed on NTA, but disparaged their conclusions. "It will take years to determine the cancer causing effects of NTA," he told us.

So the detergent companies are pushing the government to help their profits, whatever the cost may be in future birth defects and cancer cases.

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