

Jaworski-Coverup

HW 4/4/74

In a memo prior to the beginning of the Cahpin trial in re FBI cases I noted the expectation that the Chapin trial would take some time beginning with selecting the jury. It did not. There are these reasons for my error: Gessell impaneled the jury himself rather than following the normal course of adversary selection. With lawyers for both sides precluded, jury selection was rapid. The charges filed against Chapin are fewer than those that could have been and I believe should have been, particularly in fairness to those who cooperated with the prosecution. And the evidence in the charges in the indictment was bobtailed, less than available and relevant being produced. Gessell dismissed on charge on his own and offering the opinion it was weak on another. As an example of the uncharged, Chapin did lie to the FBI and others are charged with that crime. Aside from considerations like these, the performance of the special prosecutor and his staff and the workings of justice in WG cases can be evaluated by comparing this softness with Chapin with the normal prosecutorial practise, federal and local, of overloading indigent or unpopular defendants with a wide assortment of uncommitted or repetitious crimes in order to persuade defense counsel to persuade the accused to sop a stiff plea. (Note prior to ~~first~~ Chapin jury decision.)