

Chapin Given Jail Term of 10-30 Months

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By Timothy S. Robinson
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Dwight L. Chapin, former presidential appointment secretary, was sentenced yesterday to a prison term of from 10 to 30 months on his conviction of lying to a federal grand jury that was investigating the activities of political saboteur Donald Segretti.

Chapin, who will remain free pending his appeal of the conviction, continued to claim his innocence to reporters after the sentence was imposed and coupled that claim with resounding support of and unswerving loyalty to President Nixon.

That same sense of loyalty previously had been alluded to by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell in his sentencing of the trim, 33-year-old Chapin.

In sentencing Chapin to a minimum 10 months of actual jail time, Gesell had said that Chapin "apparently chose loyalty to your superiors above your obligations as a citizen and a public servant."

Gesell described the jail term as "a punishment sentence for a man who is not likely to repeat (the offense) and who needs no rehabilitation."

Neither Chapin nor his attorney, Jacob Stein, made statements during the sentencing in the courtroom. A formal request for leniency was filed in Chapin's behalf last Friday, and the judge said he had considered it in the sentence he imposed.

Chapin, wearing a gray plaid suit, stood erect and with his hands clasped behind him as the sentence was announced. His wife sat quietly with friends in the spectator section of the courtroom during the 10-minute sentencing procedure.

Outside the courthouse, Chapin announced that he would appeal his conviction to the Supreme Court, if necessary, saying, "We still have our heart . . . we know justice will be served."

See CHAPIN, A11, Col. 1



By Doug Chevalier—The Washington Post

Dwight L. Chapin and wife Susan leave court after hearing terms of sentence.

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CHAPIN, From A1

He refused to answer any questions directly related to his case, and said at first that he wanted to reserve any comment on the recent release of presidential transcripts.

However, he then added:

"I believe deeply, strongly in the President's innocence, I always have. I trust him, and when he tells me something I trust what he says.

"I think the transcripts . . . are but a minute portion of all of the business conducted in

the White House I don't think you can take that little piece of history, which may have been the darkest days in Richard Nixon's career, and construct from it a mosaic that tells you all about that man.

"I don't think it's fair to him and I don't think that's the man I knew," Chapin added.

Chapin said he was not surprised by his sentence, which courthouse observers described as fairly heavy for a first offender in a perjury case. He was convicted on two counts and could have been sentenced to a total of 10 years in jail and \$20,000 in fines.

Chapin became the fifth former White House aide to be sentenced on charges stemming from the Watergate scandal.

E. Howard Hunt was sentenced to a minimum of 30 months in jail for his role in the Watergate break-in; G. Gordon Liddy is serving a minimum of eight years for the same break-in; Egil (Bud) Krogh, former head of the White House special investigations unit known as the plumbers, is serving six months in connection with the break-in at the office of the psychiatrist of Pentagon Papers codefendant Daniel Ellsberg, and Herbert (Bart) Porter is serving a 30-day jail term on charges of lying to the FBI during its investigation of the Watergate case.

Chapin was convicted by a U.S. District Court jury on April 5 on charges that he lied when he denied telling Segretti to focus his political "dirty tricks" campaign on the presidential primary campaign of Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) and when he denied knowing that Segretti was distributing faked campaign literature.

The jury, which deliberated for more than 11 hours, acquitted Chapin of another charge of lying to the grand jury when he denied telling Segretti to avoid talking to the FBI about his activities.

Before the case reached the jury, Judge Gesell had thrown out a fourth perjury count charging Chapin with deliberately lying when he told the grand jury he did not know the details of how President Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert W. Kalmbach, was paying Segretti out of leftover 1968 Nixon campaign money.