

# Nixon and Segretti Never Met in

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President Nixon and Donald H. Segretti, the alleged political sabotage agent for the Nixon re-election campaign, never met during a two-day period in 1971 when both apparently stayed in the same hotel in Portland, Ore., Ronald L. Ziegler, presidential press secretary, said yesterday.

"The President has never in his life met Segretti," Ziegler said when asked about press reports that Mr. Nixon and Segretti stayed at the Benson Hotel in Portland between Sept. 24 and Sept. 26, 1971.

Sargent Shriver, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, has referred to the matter in several recent campaign speeches, calling on the Presi-

dent to force Segretti to "come forward and spill the beans."

There has been no evidence made known, however, that Segretti was housed with the presidential party at the Benson or that he met the President or members of his staff there.

At the time, President Nixon and about 150 members of his party—including the press—stayed at the Benson on their way to the President's

meeting in Alaska with Emperor Hirohito of Japan. They arrived on the afternoon of Sept. 25, according to numerous reports, and left about noon the next day.

Segretti, according to travel records examined by The Washington Post, flew from Washington to Portland on Sept. 24 and stayed at the Benson between the 24th and 26th of September. He purchased a plane ticket for a Sept. 26

THE WASHINGTON POST Monday, Nov. 6, 1972 A 9

## Portland, Ziegler Says

flight to San Francisco, according to the records.

President Nixon stayed on the seventh floor of the 340-room, 12-story hotel, according to the hotel. The rest of the presidential party was housed on either the fifth, sixth and seventh floors or sixth, seventh and eighth floors. "I can't remember which," said the hotel manager, Basil Miaullis.

Miaullis said he did not know what floor Segretti

stayed on, and added: "Unless I'm asked by authorities or a court or Mr. Segretti himself, I wouldn't look it up. It's a personal matter."

Segretti has been identified by federal investigators as an agent provocateur in a spying and sabotage campaign directed against the Democrats that was conceived by White House aides, according to federal law enforcement officials.

A Washington Post report

first identified President Nixon's appointments secretary, Dwight Chapin, as a "contact" for Segretti's activities, and Time magazine later reported that Segretti was hired by Chapin.

Since Segretti's activities were first reported on Oct. 10, he has dropped from sight and repeated attempts by reporters to find him have been unsuccessful.