

White House linked to Dem 'saboteur'

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WASHINGTON — Senate hearings on the nomination of L. Patrick Gray III to be FBI director have turned up evidence of a White House link to secret payments for alleged sabotage against Democratic presidential contenders last year.

Gray told the Senate Judiciary Committee that Herbert W. Kalmbach, a Los Angeles lawyer who has done personal legal work for President Nixon, paid as much as \$40,000 to Donald H. Segretti for unknown services in a seven-month period ending last March 15.

Kalmbach told the FBI he hired Segretti, described by others as an undercover troublemaker in Democratic campaigns, on the recommendation of Dwight L. Chapin, former appointments secretary to Mr. Nixon.

CHAPIN, who is now director of marketing planning for United Air Lines, was not immediately available for comment on Gray's summary of the FBI's interview of Kalmbach last Sept. 4.

Kalmbach said Chapin contacted him in August or September, 1971 — when Chapin was working for the President — and said Segretti "may be

of service to the Republican Party."

Without hearing any more details, Kalmbach paid Segretti "somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000" out of a secret campaign fund without accounting to anyone, Gray said.

"We did learn that Mr. Segretti was in touch with the published telephone number of the White House on several occasions; with hotels in Miami, Washington and Chicago; with Mr. Dwight Chapin's residence, and with Mr. Hunt, both at his office and at his residence," Gray told the committee in written testimony.

"MR. HUNT" was E. Howard Hunt, the former Central Intelligence Agency operative who pleaded guilty to last June's burglary and wire tapping of Democratic headquarters in the Watergate building.

The White House objected Thursday to the use of "raw, unevaluated material from FBI files" in the Senate hearings.

Presidential press secretary Ron Ziegler did not specify the material he referred to, but he said the administration hopes the Judiciary Committee "will reconsider this policy."

GRAY COMPLETED his testimony Thursday and was excused as the committee began hearing other witnesses on his nomination.

Other highlights of Gray's testimony Wednesday were:

- Gray sent to the White House reports of interviews with Alfred C. Baldwin III, former FBI agent who eavesdropped on more than 200 tele-



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phone calls to Democratic headquarters for the Republican-financed Watergate spy squad. The FBI reports included the "substance" of conversations and some names of those on the phone, Gray said.

- Gray sees "nothing irregular" about White House counsel John W. Dean III obtaining the contents of Hunt's safe — including a gun, top-secret dispatches involving South Vietnam, and electronic gear — and keeping them a week before turning them over to the FBI.

WHEN THE Washington Post reported Oct. 15 that Chapin served as a "contact" in a campaign of sabotage against leading Democratic presidential contenders, Chapin issued a statement saying the story was "fundamentally inaccurate."