

Segretti Behind Phony State Campaign Letter

Washington

One of political saboteur Donald H. Segretti's dirty tricks was a fictitious letter designed to damage Senator George McGovern's campaign to win the 1972 Democratic presidential primary in California.

The letter, introduced as evidence at the Senate Wat-

ergate hearings yesterday, was written on campaign stationery of former Senator Eugene W. McCarthy and carried the facsimile signature of Barbara Barron, a McCarthy campaign official in California.

Segretti testified that the letter also was designed to sow dissension among primary candidates by attempting to make them be-

lieve the various Democratic contenders were playing dirty tricks on one another.

COPIES

Copies were sent to McCarthy delegates, and similar letters went to supporters of Representative Shirley Chisholm (Dem-N.Y.) three weeks before the June 6 California primary.

The letter said that

McCarthy didn't have funds for an extensive California campaign and that "realistically the race in California is now between Senator McGovern and Senator Hubert H. Humphrey."

"It has been decided," the letter said, "that a win by Senator Humphrey would benefit our cause more than a win by Senator McGovern. If McGovern takes Califor-

nia, he will win the nomination on an early ballot in Michigan on an early ballot in Miami.

LETTER

"If Humphrey wins in California, Miami will deadlock which will enable Gene McCarthy to gain the nomination, or at the very least to heavily influence the drafting of the party platform."

The letter asked that McCarthy and Chisholm supporters unofficially and confidentially support Humphrey.

"Anything that can be done to stop McGovern would be helpful," the letter said, "but it should not be done in the name of McCarthy."

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