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Chapin Trial

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Segretti Says He Kept in Touch

Washington

Political trickster Donald Segretti testified yesterday that he kept Dwight L. Chapin informed about fake literature he was distributing in the 1972 campaign.

Segretti, who completed a jail term last week for having handed out unauthorized campaign material, also swore that Chapin, President Nixon's former appointments secretary, had instructed him to concentrate his efforts on the campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine.

Later, another of the government's key witnesses, Herbert W. Kalmbach, testified that he had specifically told Chapin how much Segretti was being paid.

Segretti said he was recruited by Chapin to commit pranks in the campaign and at frequent intervals would send to Chapin copies of phony literature that he (Segretti) distributed.

In his opening statement, assistant special prosecutor Richard J. Davis told the jury that "Mr. Chapin failed to tell the truth, Mr. Chapin told deliberate lies," in his sworn testimony last year to one of the Watergate grand juries.

The 33-year-old Chapin, now a United Air Lines marketing executive on leave, is charged in four counts with making false statements to the grand jury last year when it was investigating Segretti's activities.

One of the counts accuses Chapin of lying when he said he didn't know what Segretti was doing.

As exhibits Segretti's

handiwork were introduced. Segretti was asked whether he had sent copies to Chapin.

"My general practice was to send things on to Mr. Chapin," Segretti said.

He testified he drafted a fake news release on stationery of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey saying that Representative Shirley Chisholm (Dem-N.Y.) was "committed to a home for the mentally ill from February, 1951, until April, 1952, near Hampton, Va."

Mrs. Chisholm briefly was a Democratic presidential candidate in 1972.

"Did you send a copy of this to Mr. Chapin?" Davis asked.

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you have a conversation with Chapin about it?

A. We had a brief conversation. Mr. Chapin inquired if I were responsible for the item. Mr. Chapin said that either he read it in Mr. (Gordon) Strachan's office or Strachan in his office and they laughed about it.

Davis read the fake news release to the jury and asked "are any of the facts true?"

"No, sir," Segretti said in a quiet voice. "I found much of the facts in a psychology text."

U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell cautioned the jury that it was trying Chapin only on the four counts of lying and "you must not let the contents of these letters affect your judgment."

Chapin also is charged with lying when he said he advised Segretti to tell his story to the FBI when Se-

gretti feared, after the Watergate break-in, that his activities might come to light.

Segretti said he had learned from his answering service after June 17, 1972, that FBI agents were trying to contact him and that he called Chapin for advice.

"Do you recall in the conversation Chapin telling you to talk to the FBI?" he was asked.

"No. I don't recall one way or another," Segretti said.

Segretti was asked about a letter he sent on Citizens for Muskie stationery, and he said he wrote the letter, had it printed, and sent out about 40 copies, including one to Chapin.

Later, he said, "Chapin asked how much it cost me and I stated \$20."

"He said for \$20 you got \$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of publicity," Segretti testified. "He warned me to be careful. I said it wouldn't be wise to have copies of this around the White House, and he said don't worry about it."

Segretti, a California lawyer, was released from prison March 25 after serving 4½ months of a six-month sentence. He had pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts of violating campaign laws.

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