

Chapin Says He Ignored Most Data From Segretti

Calls Bogus Campaign Material a Boring 'Hodgepodge of Junk'—One Charge Dismissed as Both Sides Rest

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
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WASHINGTON, April 3 — Dwight L. Chapin took the witness stand in his own defense today and testified that he had paid little attention to the political sabotage activities carried out by Donald H. Segretti.

Mr. Chapin acknowledged that he had regularly received copies of bogus campaign material printed by Mr. Segretti, but he said that he had quickly become "bored" with what he called "a hodge-podge of junk" and started throwing away the envelopes from Mr. Segretti "without even opening them."

Mr. Chapin, who was President Nixon's appointments secretary during the first four years of his presidency, is charged with having lied to the Watergate grand jury about his relationship with Mr. Segretti. He is the first person to be brought to trial by the Watergate special prosecutor, Leon Jaworski.

Mr. Chapin testified today that H. R. Haldeman, who resigned last April as President Nixon's Chief of Staff, had approved the hiring of Mr. Segretti in 1971 to disrupt the primary campaigns of Democratic Presidential candidates.

He implicated Mr. Haldeman, who is under indictment on charges of trying to cover up the Watergate scandal, while clarifying a White House memorandum that a Government attorney read in court.

Both the Government and the defense rested their cases today, the third day of the trial in the United States District Court here, and, after final arguments and instructions from Judge Gerhard A. Gesell tomorrow morning, the matter will go to the jury.

One Count Dismissed

Judge Gesell dismissed one of the counts against Mr. Chapin today after hearing only the prosecution's case. That count concerned whether Mr. Chapin had lied when he told the grand jury a year ago that he did not know of the arrangements made to pay Mr. Segretti's salary.

Judge Gesell declared that

the evidence on this accusation was "fuzzy."

The evidence on one other count—that Mr. Chapin lied when he swore to the grand jury that he had instructed Mr. Segretti to talk with the Federal Bureau of Investigation—seemed sketchy to observers at the trial.

For the other two counts, on which the government has offered considerable evidence, Mr. Chapin's basic defense is that if he made false statements to the grand jury, he did it unintentionally and because he misunderstood the questions or because of a difference in semantics.

Heavy Responsibilities

Mr. Chapin pictured himself as a busy man, concerned with such weighty matters as arranging for the President's trip to China, and he said that after he had hired Mr. Segretti he pretty much left his old college friend on his own.

"Weren't you interested in what Mr. Segretti was doing?" the assistant prosecutor, Richard J. Davis, asked at one point.

"Not particularly, no," Mr. Chapin replied.

Mr. Segretti was released from prison last week after serving more than four months of a six-month sentence for distributing unauthorized campaign literature.

He was the key witness against Mr. Chapin, testifying yesterday that he reported regularly to Mr. Chapin, sent him copies of the material he was passing out and received some instructions from him.

The two most serious of the three counts remaining against Mr. Chapin are that he lied to the grand jury in the following instances:

When he said that he had never discussed the "distribution" of campaign literature with Mr. Segretti and was not "familiar with" anything Mr. Segretti had distributed.

When he said that he did not "recall" expressing interest in or giving Mr. Segretti "any directions or instructions with



Associated Press

John W. Dean 3d leaving court in Washington yesterday after testifying at the trial of Dwight L. Chapin.

respect to any single or particular candidate."

On the first point, Mr. Chapin swore that he had never discussed the distribution of material with Mr. Segretti, that he had instructed Mr. Segretti to hire others and not to get directly involved himself and that he had never discussed with Mr. Segretti how the material was passed out.

There was the following exchange between Mr. Chapin and his attorney, Jacob A. Stein:

Q. To this day can you recall any conversation with Mr. Segretti about the distribution of campaign statements of any kind?

A. I cannot.

Q. Are you familiar with anything Mr. Segretti distributed personally?

A. No, sir.

Asked for his definition of the word "distribution," Mr. Chapin, who is now on leave as a United Airlines executive, responded, "the word distribution means to me how something goes from the point of production to the consumer."

Focus on Front Runners

On the question of whether he told Mr. Segretti to concentrate on any specific candidate, Mr. Chapin swore that he did not, just as he had testified to the grand jury.

What he did say, Mr. Chapin declared today, was that Mr. Segretti should focus on the "front-running candidates," not any specific person.

When he was shown a note

in his own handwriting directing Mr. Segretti to disrupt the Presidential campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine, Mr. Chapin said that he did not remember writing the note now and did not recall it when he testified before the grand jury.

Proof of intention

If he is going to be convicted, the jury must find not only that Mr. Chapin made false statements to the grand jury, but that he did so deliberately.

To bolster their case, the prosecutors produced a "chronology" written by Mr. Chapin in November, 1972, outlining many of Mr. Segretti's activities and mentioning the names of specific Democratic candidates.

Mr. Chapin acknowledged that he had prepared the "chronology," although its purpose was never made clear, but he said that what he meant when he gave his answer to the grand jury five months after the chronology was written was "only that there was no masterplan against any particular candidate."

Mr. Chapin said that he had begun working for President Nixon during his 1962 campaign for the governorship of California, and that he had worked regularly for him from 1966 until he left to work for United Air Lines in early 1973.

The President, Mr. Chapin testified, never knew of Mr. Segretti's activities, and he added, "my own goal was to keep him from embarrassment."