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CHAPIN SENTENCED TO 10-30 MONTHS

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Former Nixon Aide Appeals Prison Term for Lying to Watergate Grand Jury

By ANTHONY RIPLEY

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WASHINGTON, May 15 —

Dwight L. Chapin, President Nixon's former appointments secretary, was sentenced today to a minimum of 10 months in prison for lying to a Watergate grand jury about political sabotage in the 1972 campaign.

Judge Gerhard A. Gesell imposed two concurrent sentences of 10 to 30 months each, calling it "a punishment sentence for a man who is not likely to repeat and needs no rehabilitation."

When Judge Gesell read the sentence, Mr. Chapin was apparently unmoved as he stood before the bench in United States District Court here. On April 5, he was convicted by a jury on two counts of lying about his dealings with Donald H. Segretti, an old college friend. Mr. Chapin was acquitted on a third count, and a fourth count was dismissed during the trial.

"It appears to the court that your resort to the convenience of swearing falsely when called before a grand jury cannot be condoned," Judge Gesell told the 33-year-old defendant. "I have therefore decided you

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Dwight L. Chapin leaving court with his wife after he was sentenced yesterday in Washington for lying to Watergate grand jury. He received 10 to 30 months.

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must serve a jail sentence in each case."

Jacob A. Stein, Mr. Chapin's attorney, immediately appealed the case. Judge Gesell released Mr. Chapin on personal recognizance on the condition that his lawyer move forward quickly with the appeal.

Mr. Chapin was known in the White House as efficient, good-natured and, as another White House aide described him in 1972, a "super loyalist" to President Nixon.

Mr. Chapin's loyalty remained as he stepped outside the courthouse with his wife, Susan, and faced newsmen in the bright afternoon sunshine.

"It is not a pleasant day," he said with no emotion.

He said the sentence did not surprise him but that "this is kind of Round 1."

"We still have our heart," he added. "We know that justice can be served."

Asked about the impeachment hearings now under way before the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Chapin said: "I believe deeply, strongly in the President's innocence. I always have, I trust him. When he tells me something, I believe it."

Comments on Transcripts

At first, Mr. Chapin declined to comment about the transcript of Watergate-related Presidential conversations that Mr. Nixon released two weeks ago, but then he said:

"The transcripts are but a minute, a minute portion of all of the business that was conducted in the White House and I don't think that you can take that little piece of history that may be the darkest days of Richard Nixon's career and construct from that a mosaic that tells you all about that man."

Mr. Chapin's troubles grew from his dealings with Mr. Segretti, who has admitted playing "dirty tricks" on candidates

for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1972.

Mr. Chapin told a grand jury that he knew nothing of the distribution of campaign literature by Mr. Segretti and that he could not recall giving him instructions about a particular candidate.

Mr. Segretti, who was released from Federal prison on March 25 after serving four months and 20 days of a six-month sentence on four misdemeanor counts of distributing illegal campaign literature, was the main Government witness against Mr. Chapin.

Mr. Segretti said that he regularly sent Mr. Chapin copies of fake campaign material he was distributing and that Mr. Chapin had told him to disrupt the Presidential campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine.

Mr. Chapin could have been sentenced to 10 years in prison, and fined \$20,000—the maximum penalties for two counts of false swearing before a grand jury.

In a related Watergate matter, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia gave the special prosecutor until next Monday to respond to a petition seeking to ban Judge John J. Sirica of Federal District Court from presiding at the Watergate cover-up conspiracy trial.

Five of the seven defendants in the case have asked the appellate court to assign the case to another judge on the ground that Judge Sirica had allegedly shown bias toward the prosecution in the case.