

Jury Indicts Chapin

Ex-Aide of Nixon Accused Of Telling Lies

By Timothy S. Robinson
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Dwight L. Chapin, who served President Nixon during his first term of office as his appointments secretary, was indicted yesterday on four charges of lying to a federal grand jury last spring when asked about the activities of political saboteur Donald Segretti.

Upon learning of the indictment, Chapin requested a leave of absence from his current job as director of market planning for United Air Lines in order to "devote all of his energies to defending himself against the charges," according to a United spokesman. Neither Chapin nor his attorney could be reached for comment on the charges yesterday.

The indictment of Chapin was the first returned in the Watergate scandal since the appointment of Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski. Jaworski was in the courtroom yesterday as U.S. District Chief Judge John J. Sirica interrupted a hearing into a gap on the Watergate tapes to accept the indictment.

Chapin is the highest-ranking Nixon administration official indicted by federal Watergate probes. As appointments secretary, he met almost daily with the President and was one of a handful of White House aides with easy access to the President.

The White House said it would have no comment on Chapin's indictment until it had reviewed the charges in detail. However, presidential press secretary Ronald L. Zie-

gler said he wanted to caution the media personally that the indictment should not be permitted to "undercut the presumption of innocence" for Chapin.

Segretti has pleaded guilty to political sabotage activity in connection with the 1972 Florida presidential primary and is serving a six-month sentence in a federal penitentiary in Lompoc, Calif.

Segretti's cooperation with prosecutor investigating the alleged "dirty tricks" during the presidential campaign is believed to have played a key role in the indictment of Chapin yesterday. In addition, prosecutors had previously granted immunity to one of Segretti's workers, Martin Douglas Kelly.

Chapin was first named as a major Washington contact for Segretti's political activities in an article that appeared in The Washington Post on Oct. 15, 1972. Chapin said at that time that the story was "based on hearsay and is fundamentally inaccurate."

The day that article appeared, Chapin, former White House aide John Ehrlichman, former White House counsel John W. Dean III and several other top White House aides met and discussed how to respond to press coverage linking the two men. The White House officially accused The Post on Oct. 16 of printing stories "based on hearsay, character assassination, innuendo or guilt by association."

Segretti was secretly paid about \$35,000 for his spying activities by Herbert W. Kalmbach, then the President's personal attorney.

The indictment returned yesterday charged Chapin with four separate instances of making false declarations

See CHAPIN, A5, Col. 1

CHAPIN, From A1

to a grand jury here last April 11. Each count is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, a jail term or five years, or both.

At the time, according to informed sources, the grand jury was hearing testimony at the request of the Justice Department concerning Segretti's activities in Florida. The department had been probing those activities since the fall, the sources said.

Appearing the same day, for example, was another presidential aide—Gordon Strachan—who also was questioned about Segretti's campaign activities, the sources said.

In the first count of the indictment returned yesterday, Chapin is said to have answered falsely when asked the following two questions by the original Watergate prosecutors Earl J. Silbert Jr., Seymour Glanzer and Donald Campbell:

"Q. Did you ever discuss in any way with Mr. Segretti the distribution of any campaign literature or statements of any kind?

"A. No.

"Q. To your knowledge did Mr. Segretti ever distribute any statements on any kind, or any campaign literature of any kind?

"A. Not that I am familiar with.

The next false statements, according to the indictment, occurred during the following exchange between Chapin and the prosecutors:

"Q. Now following June 17 and the Watergate, what contact, if any, did you have with Mr. Segretti?

"A. It's been very, very limited.

"Q. Well, have you ever seen him for example, since June 17th?

"A. Until today, I don't believe so. (Segretti was also called before the grand jury that day.

"Q. Have you ever talked to him on the telephone?

"A. Yes.

"Q. Can you tell us when?

"A. I talked to him when he called me to tell me that the FBI had called him. That was the first time that I talked to him. That would have been, I guess, probably the end of

July or June, or the beginning of July.

"Q. What did you say to him once he advised you that the FBI had contacted him?

"A. I told him to walk to the FBI."

That last answer was false the indictment stated.

The next exchange in which Chapin is said to have lied was the following:

"Q. What candidates do you recall receiving information about? Senator Muskie—was he one?

"A. Yes. I think virtually Muskie and Humphrey. Wallace.

"Q. Senator McGovern?

"A. Jackson, McGovern. I think virtually all of them. I forget now who all the candidates were. I think that covers it.

"Q. At one time or another during this period of time, in the early months of 1972, you received information from Mr. Segretti relating to all these candidates?

"A. As I recall, two of them may be mentioned in one little note or something. But they were not documents or reports—what you and I would consider reports.

"Q. Did you ever express any interest to him or give him any directions or instructions with respect to any single or particular candidate?

"A. Not that I recall."

That last answer was false,

said the indictment.

The signal exchange in which Capin lied to the grand jury, according to the indictment, was the following:

"Q. What arrangements were made with respect to him insofar as the financing of this operation?

"A. I believe I gave him instructions to call—to get in touch with Herb Kalmbach.

"Q. Well, did you discuss with him—that is, Mr. Segretti—anything with respect to amounts of money?

"A. Never. I never knew what he was paid. (That statement was untrue, the indictment charged.)

"Q. Did you ever, prior to his contacting of Mr. Kalmbach, did you ever discuss the range of money that you were discussing or talking about?

"A. No, I didn't.

"Q. What did he (Kalmbach) tell you as to the arrangement he had worked out?

"A. Nothing. He just said that he had met with Don and that everything was taken care of. I didn't ask what that meant. (This answer was untrue, the indictment charged.)

"Q. Did you ever find out the salary arrangement or the expense arrangement that had been worked out with Mr. Segretti?

"A. Only through The Washington Post. (This answer was false, according to the indictment.)

"Q. Outside of that you had no knowledge?

"A. No. (This is also false, said the indictment.)