

Chapin Asks

Acquittal

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WASHINGTON (AP) —

Dwight L. Chapin, former White House aide convicted April 5 of lying to the Watergate grand jury, asked on Friday for a court-ordered judgment of acquittal or a new trial.

Among the reasons cited by Chapin's attorney, Jacob Stein, was an allegation that the government failed to prove that the foreman of the grand jury was a United States citizen "and is not empowered to administer an oath."

Chapin was convicted on two counts of lying to the grand jury about what he knew of the activities of Donald H. Segretti, whom he hired to harass Democratic candidates in the 1972 presidential campaign.

The motions filed in District Court allege there was insufficient evidence to sustain the jury's guilty verdict and that prejudicial evidence was presented by the government.

"If this court denies the motion for judgment of acquittal," the legal paper said, "then the court should order a new trial simply because the evidence of guilt is so slight that the jury verdict represents a failure to properly follow the court's instructions."

Chapin, 33, was formerly appointments secretary to President Nixon.