

Anti-Democratic Spying Tied to High Republicans

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 15—An elaborate campaign to disrupt Democratic campaigns and spy on candidates has been linked to a leading White House official, to other Administration figures and to President Nixon's campaign organization.

Time magazine, citing Justice Department files, reported that in September, 1971, Dwight L. Chapin, a deputy assistant to the President, hired Donald H. Segretti, a young lawyer who has previously been identified as a Republican sabotage agent.

The magazine added that Gordon Strachan, another White House aide, had a hand in hiring Mr. Segretti and that the agent was paid through Herbert W. Kalmbach, Mr. Nixon's personal attorney.

The Washington Post also linked Mr. Chapin and Mr. Segretti, quoting one of the

young lawyer's friends as saying that Mr. Segretti once told him that Mr. Chapin was "a person I reported to in Washington."

Meanwhile, a Justice Department source reported today that the over-all espionage campaign against Democrats was under the direct control of a "high official" in the Committee for the Re-election of the President. The official was not named.

Secret Cash Supply

The Government informant also said the espionage effort was financed from a secret supply of cash kept in a safe in the offices of Maurice H. Stans, the former Secretary of Commerce who is now Mr. Nixon's chief fund-raiser.

Federal investigators said they were unable to find any evidence, in connection with either the June 17 raid on the offices of the Democratic National Committee or the broader sabotage effort, that Mr. Stans knew how the cash was being spent.

Those who did know of the disruption campaign referred to it as "rat—," an obscene phrase alluding to the Democratic candidate victimized by the program. The phrase is understood to be one commonly used on California campuses when some men linked to the

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case, including Mr. Chapin and Mr. Segretti, were in college there.

The Justice Department source and other informants said that large sums of campaign money were spent in an effort to make it appear, among other things, that one Democratic candidate was unfairly or crudely working against another.

Specific and general denials came from the White House. Mr. Chapin, through a spokesman, told The Post that he had known Mr. Segretti "since college days" but characterized the newspaper's report as "hearsay" and "fundamentally inaccurate."

John D. Ehrlichman, assistant to the President for domestic affairs, said on the American Broadcasting company's "Issues and Answers" program this afternoon that The Post report linking Mr. Segretti and Mr. Chapin was "hearsay about four times removed."

Mr. Ehrlichman said he had no knowledge of any of the events described in The Post, asserting that there had been "not any proof, but a lot of charges." The White House of-

ficial said he had not yet read the account in Time magazine.

The Post's source linking Mr. Segretti and Mr. Chapin, Lawrence Young, a 32-year-old California lawyer, confirmed in a telephone interview today that Mr. Segretti had told him that Mr. Chapin was one of his Washington "contacts" in the espionage program.

Mr. Young said in the interview that Mr. Chapin and Mr. Segretti were college associates and that Mr. Segretti had said that he visited in Mr. Chapin's home during at least one of his trips to Washington.

The espionage - sabotage charges, which resulted from investigations into the Watergate affair, hinge substantially on Mr. Segretti, a 31-year-old Californian, and on the things he is alleged to have said and hinted at.

At least eight persons in various parts of the country have said during the last week that they were approached by Mr. Segretti and invited to act as undercover agents against the Democrats.

All those who said they were approached have denied accepting Mr. Segretti's offer, and most of them have indicated that Mr. Segretti was either

vague or entirely mute about his own employers.

Some of them have said that Mr. Segretti told them the work would be done on behalf of President Nixon or indicated that it would be backed by high officials. Mr. Young's account takes it much further.

He confirmed in the interview today that he had named Mr. Chapin and had quoted Mr. Segretti as having said he received spying jobs from E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House aide who was indicated in the Watergate break-in.

Mr. Young, in his statement to The Post, quoted Mr. Segretti as having said the following:

Presidential advisers in Miami Beach two days before the Republican National Convention showed him copies of reports on two interviews he had had with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. One report was less than a day old.

The Presidential aides then briefed Mr. Segretti on what he should say when testifying before a Federal grand jury that was investigating the bugging and wiretapping of the Democratic headquarters.

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