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'White House Calls'

New Bugging Link Reported

Los Angeles

Donald H. Segretti, the man identified in news reports as a key figure in a campaign to sabotage Democratic political activities, has been linked to a number of telephone calls made last spring to the White House.

Some of the calls were made from his home telephone and others were charged to his credit card.

The New York Times has learned that at least 28 calls were made to the White House; to the home of Dwight L. Chapin, a close aide to President Nixon, and to the home and office of E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Hunt, a former White House consultant, has been indicted in connection with the break-in June 17 at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex in Washington.

News reports have alleged that Chapin and Hunt served as Washington contacts for Segretti, a 31-year-old lawyer who several persons have said tried to recruit them for political espionage.

Segretti denied the initial reports concerning his involvement in an espionage campaign, but could not be reached for comment on the new information.

Spokesmen for the White House and the Committee for the Re-election of the President have denounced

the press for printing articles based on what they call "hearsay" and "innuendo," but they have neither denied nor rebutted the material that has been published.

Chapin and Hunt could not be reached yesterday. Ronald L. Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary, said that he had "no knowledge" of the calls to the White House and "no idea"

The Times has learned that at least six calls were made to the White House from Segretti's phone or were billed to his credit card—one in April and five in June, the last on June 23.

On at least 19 occasions from March to June, the unlisted number of Hunt's office at Robert R. Mullen and Company, a Washington public relations firm, was called from the Segretti phone. Two calls were placed in that period to Hunt's home in Rockville, Md.

It was not known who participated in any of the telephone calls.

The calls to Hunt's home and office stopped shortly before June 17, the night five men were arrested in the offices of the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate complex.

Hunt worked as a consultant to the White House in 1971 and 1972, mainly on domestic affairs. The White House has contended that he last worked there on March 29; some sources say he worked through June. At least two of the calls from the Segretti home to Hunt's phones were placed before March 29.

Last week, the Washington Post first named Segretti as an important operative in what is described as a broad campaign conducted by Nixon's re-election committee to disrupt and harass Democratic candidates.

At least eight persons around the country have told the New York Times and other newspapers that they were approached by Segretti and asked to perform undercover work of various kinds. Most of them said they were not sure whom Segretti was working for; but several have said that he told them he was working for Mr. Nixon's campaign.

N.Y. Times Service