

19 Oct 72

The Name on File At McGovern HQ

Los Angeles

A young lawyer who has been linked to an alleged campaign of political espionage against the Democrats apparently volunteered to work for Senator George McGovern in the California primary last June.

It has also been learned that at least three telephone calls were placed to McGovern's state headquarters from the home of the lawyer, Donald H. Segretti.

Records in McGovern's campaign headquarters in Santa Monica disclosed that someone identifying himself as Segretti appeared there and offered to work on June 3, just before the June 6 primary.

In addition, the records indicate that on at least three occasions, someone answering Segretti's phone said that he would canvass a precinct or help distribute leaflets. But there is no indication that he ever did any work, and his card is now in the file of less active volunteers.

REPORT

The New York Times reported earlier that at least 28 phone calls charged to Segretti's home phone or his credit card were made last spring to the White House; to the home phone of Dwight L. Chapin, a close aide to President Nixon, and to the home or office of E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former White House consultant who has been indicted in the alleged bugging of the Democratic national headquarters.

Chapin and Hunt had previously been identified in news reports as Segretti's Washington contact for an alleged campaign of harassment and disruption against Democratic candidates.

Yesterday Ronald L. Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary, insisted that "no one here at the White House directed" activities involving "sabotage, spying and espionage."

But Ziegler, as before, did not specifically deny published reports about the link between Segretti and the two administration figures.

Segretti denied the original news reports about his activities but reporters have been unable to reach him for the last two weeks.

FILES

The Segretti file at McGovern headquarters came to light when Barbara Bennett, the manager of the Santa Monica office, recognized Segretti's name in news reports.

She said that she went through her files and found two index cards bearing Segretti's name. The phone number and address listed in the files are the same as Segretti's phone number and address in nearby Marina Del Ray.

The first card indicated

that on June 3, Segretti volunteered to join a bicycle parade promoting the McGovern campaign. There was also a notation saying that he would canvass a precinct out of the Venice headquarters the next day.

CALLS

Segretti was apparently called by a representative of the headquarters on June 5, and the card indicated that he consented to distribute leaflets.

Segretti was called at least ten more times by McGovern headquarters after that, and notations indicated that the phone was only answered twice. On September 17, the card said he agreed to canvass, and on September 24 the note said he would "probably" attend a rally. The last call was placed on October 9, the day before the Washington Post first linked Segretti to the alleged sabotage efforts against the Democrats.

However, Miss Bennett had no recollection of Segretti.

At least ten phone calls were made from Segretti's telephone to the Los Angeles county headquarters of the Republican party. Guy McCreary, the office manager, said yesterday he had never heard of Segretti.

MORE

In a related development, it was learned that about 60 telephone calls were made from Segretti's phone or with his credit card this spring and summer to two young Floridians now serving as Republican campaign managers.

Twenty calls from March 5 to July 9 to the home telephone of Robert Benz of Tampa were charged to the home telephone of Segretti in Los Angeles. About 40 calls were made to Martin Douglas Kelly of Miami.

Kelly and Benz are campaign managers for Republican candidates running for seats in the Florida legislature.

Kelly acknowledged talking to a man who identified himself as Segretti but Benz refused to comment.

N.Y. Times Service