

SEGRETTI IS LINKED TO G.O.P. ACTIVISTS

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Phone Calls Were Made to
2 Young Midwesterners

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CHICAGO, Oct. 21 — Donald H. Segretti, reportedly a key figure in a Republican espionage and sabotage campaign, has been linked to a series of calls to the telephone numbers of two young Midwestern Republican activists.

Both men were close friends from the national "old-boy" network of College Republicans that has placed a number of men in key positions in the Nixon Administration.

Seven of the calls went to the number of Thomas J. Visny, a 24-year-old aide to Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie of Illinois. Mr. Visny was recently killed in an automobile accident.

The other man to whose number the calls were directed, Charles Svilik, also 24, of Indianapolis, recalled that Mr. Visny received mysterious packets of cash in the mail for redistribution to people who had been asked to take on political tasks.

"Once he dusted the money for fingerprints," Mr. Svilik recalled. "And there wasn't any on any of the bills."

Mr. Svilik, who has worked as an aide to several major Indiana political figures, including a stint as administrative assistant to the former state Republican chairman, Buena Chaney, said that Mr. Visny was doing work for Governor Ogilvie's re-election campaign at the time of his death.

In an interview at his home on Wednesday night, Mr. Svilik, who received 11 telephone calls that were billed to Mr. Segretti's home or credit card between Feb. 14 and May 9, said that he did not know anyone named Segretti.

But, he added, he received

many telephone calls that all spring from various political interests seeking advice and asking questions about Gov. George C. Wallace's Indiana primary campaign.

In a second interview the following night, he indicated that Mr. Segretti may have used the alias "Simmons" in his calls.

"I don't know anything about what this Segretti or Simmons or whatever his name was supposed to be doing," Mr. Svilik said, adding that he would not answer any questions on the advice of his lawyer, James D. Blythe 2d, a local Republican figure.

In a press release describing an article in its upcoming issue, Newsweek magazine said tonight that Mr. Svilik had been "recruited, coached, supplied and paid at least \$2,000 by the G.O.P.'s missing spymaster, Donald H. Segretti."

The magazine said that Mr. Svilik had told friends that Mr. Segretti, under the name of "Don Simmons," had approached him in February and asked him to help "literally destroy the strong candidates like Muskie."

The magazine said that Mr. Svilik had told his friends that he had been told that there would be an unlimited amount of money for such projects as planting people in Democratic headquarters. The release said that at one point he delivered phony posters in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin saying "A vote for Muskie is a vote for busing."

The magazine said that eventually Mr. Svilik became disillusioned with the project, telling friends that "you are messing with the very party structure of the country."

Reached tonight, Mr. Svilik refused to confirm or deny anything in the Newsweek release on the advice of his lawyers.

At least eight persons around the country have told The New York Times and other newspapers that they were approached by Mr. Segretti and asked to perform undercover work of various kinds.

According to the various accounts, Mr. Segretti's work included such activities as obtaining secret information

about Democratic campaigns, planting false stories about rival candidates, distributing bogus literature, and generally fomenting trouble and discord among contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination. His activities were said to be an important part of what is reportedly a broad campaign to disrupt and harass Democratic candidates.

\$35,000 Fee Reported

Mr. Segretti reportedly has been paid more than \$35,000 for his work, funneled from the Committee for the Re-election of the President through Herbert W. Kalmbach, a California lawyer who has often represented President Nixon in his private affairs. A series of telephone calls linked to Mr. Segretti have been traced to Dwight L. Chapin, an aide to the President, and to E. Howard Hunt Jr., the former White House consultant indicted in connection with the Watergate affair.

By his own account and those of other Republicans, one of Mr. Svilik's major areas of political expertise is "delegate intelligence" — evaluating the strength, weaknesses and various pressures operating on an opponent before a convention. He specializes particularly in right-wing groups, which he watched as a delegate intelligence specialist for Governor Rockefeller's bid for the Presidential nomination in 1968.

He also said he had been given an answering service telephone number in East St. Louis as a contact, but then declined to say who gave it to him.

In his conversion, Mr. Svilik implied that Mr. Visny had a key role in gathering information in the Middle West, but refused to answer specific questions about his activities. The two were close friends and Mr. Visny was the godfather of Mr. Svilik's child.