

Alleged GOP Saboteur Has a 'Nasty' Lunge

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By Robert...
LOS ANGELES — Don E. Segretti has been in more than 300 weeks. Someone collects the mail at his suburban Los Angeles apartment and a side table and a pair of place with simulated dog are left burning.

Segretti's residence, parking place, where they used to be a waste processor, 23031, road, and the left empty.

"When Don returns," a neighbor says, "he's going to have a lot of things to explain."

Segretti, 31, is an alleged political saboteur. Federal investigators say one of his "contacts" in Washington was Dwight L. Chapin, President Nixon's appointments secretary. One publication said he was recruited by Gordon Strachan, another White House aide, to attempt to disrupt and damage the campaigns of Democratic presidential candidates.

Segretti reportedly was paid at least \$20,000—some reports say he received \$50,000—by the President's personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach. The money came from a secret fund in the office of Maurice Stans, former Secretary of Commerce and now the President's chief reelection fundraiser. Kalmbach was one of only five people to have access to the fund, investigators say.

"I can't understand any of this," a former classmate of Segretti at the University of Southern California told this reporter. "Don was one of the nicest guys around."

Segretti, unmarried and with boyish good looks, has apparently always been one of the nicest guys around. Niceness seems to be his most outstanding trait. Beyond that, even close friends say very little.

Segretti was born Sept. 17, 1941, and lived with his family in San Marino, an affluent suburb of Los Angeles. After school at San Marino High, Segretti entered USC in 1959, the school his father has attended.

Don Segretti pledged Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, and in his sophomore year was elected to Squires, an honorary service society that funneled junior and senior men into knights, a similar society. Responsibilities at both included guarding the USC Trojan sword at football games, and "ungolding

the traditions. Other Squires and Knights included Dwight Chapin, the presidential appointments secretary who has almost daily contact with Mr. Nixon, and Mike Conley, currently on Henry Kissinger's staff. Two years behind Segretti, but also a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and Knights, was Gordon Strachan.

Segretti's major was finance, and he did well of it. In his senior year he was awarded a scholarship to the Radio, the only year of his life he did not study for a grade.

Another university graduate was Bob Fadda, who had been in the White House in 1961. Fadda's campaign had been managed by Dwight Chapin. Fadda recalls that a few months ago, out of the blue, Don called to talk about his life, who was programing the...
We didn't...
There is...
I respect...
After law school, Segretti served briefly in the Treasury Department in Washington, then was drafted into the army. A captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps, he taught a 1968 class in military science at the University of Virginia. After that he spent a year in Vietnam, and concluded his military service at Ft. Ord near San Francisco. He was discharged in 1971.

It was in Vietnam that Segretti met three of the lawyers he allegedly tried to recruit for political espionage against Democratic presidential candidates. One of the three, Alex B. Shipley, now assistant state attorney general of Tennessee, says Segretti "stressed all the fun we could have."

The whole thing sounds like campus politics on a national level," said one former classmate, a Democrat. "It's hard to believe Don would be involved."

With the exception of the Treasury Department, the only "job" Segretti is known to have had was parking cars on Saturdays of USC football games. The Segretti family owned a piece of vacant land near the Los Angeles Coliseum, where the USC Trojans played. USC Trojans played. USC Trojans played. USC Trojans played.

When Richard Nixon was the governor of California in 1962, he recruited much of his junior staff from USC.

Segretti was at USC when he apparently did not work for Nixon. People remember him primarily as a nice guy, always in the background, always with an open smile on his face.

For law school, Segretti chose Boalt Hall on the University of California at Berkeley campus. He rented rooms on Dennis Street and one of his former roommates, now a San Diego lawyer, has the only negative thing to say about him. "I'd say we were... well, man, recalls. It was his first year, and he was really worried about that. Well, I was in my first year and the pressure was off me. We didn't... well."

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... accusations linking him with
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... others to do the same thing.

Segretti never blinked. He frequently shook his head as if mystified, went to the open-counter kitchen to get pencil and paper to record what he said were the ridiculous charges. He never raised his voice. Even under pressure, he came off as a very nice guy.

Only when he was told of Alex ... statement

that a Los Angeles law firm by the name of Young and Segretti would be "a cover," did his head involuntarily jerk up. Later, there was moisture in his eyes.

There is no such law firm in California.

Lawrence R. Young, an attorney and USC classmate of Segretti, told The Post that "if my name was used, it was done so without my authorization." Later, Young quoted Segretti as saying that "Dwight Chapin was a man I reported to in Washington."

Segretti's father is a retired businessman, but friends of Segretti don't know what business he was in and the family hasn't said. Segretti's father and his mother, who is ailing, are reported deeply disturbed by all the attention their son is getting. They have refused all comment. Relatives in Salinas, Calif., say they know nothing about his current activities.