

Denial of a 'Force-Out'

Miami

The White House confirmed yesterday that Dwight L. Chapin is leaving as President Nixon's appointments secretary, but denied that he was being forced out or that the move resulted from his reported links to political espionage by Republicans last year.

Ronald Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said Chapin has decided to accept a "fine" offer to join a private business in the spring.

At the same time, Ziegler made what he described as a "general, broad, sweeping, all-encompassing" denial that the President, H. R. Haldeman (the White House chief of staff who is Chapin's immediate superior) or any



AP Wirephoto
DWIGHT CHAPIN
He's leaving

other administration official has asked Chapin to leave. The New York Times re-

ported Sunday that a high-ranking administration official had said that Chapin was being forced out because of newspaper disclosures, naming him as the White House contact with Donald H. Segretti, a California lawyer who has conceded that he played a role in widespread Republican efforts to disrupt the democratic primaries and harass Democratic candidates last year.

Asked about the report in the Times, which he referred to with a smile as "the publication that serves the city located on the north-eastern tip of the United States," Ziegler said he welcomed the opportunity to say that the article was "absolutely unfounded and untrue."

He emphasized that Chapin, a friend from student days at the University of Southern California, "has every opportunity" to stay in the administration.

The press secretary then recalled Chapin's six years of service to Mr. Nixon, including work last year in preparing for the President's trips to China and the Soviet Union, and noted that the appointments secretary had been named by the U.S. Jaycees as one of the ten outstanding young men of America in 1972.

However, Ziegler went on, the 32-year-old Chapin has received "a number of very fine offers in the business world" and "I think he has made the decision" to accept one of them.

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