

Chapin Said to Have Told Nixon Aide to Pay Segretti

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By SEYMOUR M. HERSH FEB 8 1973
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 — A former White House aide, Dwight L. Chapin, has told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he directed Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal attorney, to pay Donald H. Segretti for alleged spying and sabotage activities against Democrats in 1971 and last year, according to Government sources.

These sources said that Mr. Kalmbach, a leading Republican party fund-raiser who is a confidant of the President, confirmed in a subsequent interrogation by F.B.I. agents that he had made a series of cash payments to Mr. Segretti.

Neither Mr. Chapin, whose resignation as the President's appointments secretary was announced last week, nor Mr. Kalmbach was called before the Federal grand jury investigating the Watergate bugging case. Government officials said this was because Federal prosecutors had concluded that Mr. Segretti's activities were not illegal.

The Government sources acknowledged that a number of key questions therefore had been left unanswered—among them, who ordered Mr. Chapin to tell Mr. Kalmbach to start paying Mr. Segretti, and how, if at all, the payments were recorded.

Meanwhile, the Senate voted today, 77 to 0, to set up a select committee to make a far-reaching inquiry into the Watergate case.

The New York Times reported today that as early as February, 1972, Gordon C. Strachan, then, like Mr. Chapin, an aide to H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, knew of the political intelligence operations led by G. Gordon Liddy

and E. Howard Hunt Jr., that was four months before the arrest of five men inside the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate complex here, which led to Liddy's conviction and Hunt's guilty plea in the bugging case.

At a news briefing today, Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Haldeman had in no way been involved with either the Liddy-Hunt intelligence operation or the apparently separate one headed by Mr. Segretti. Mr. Ziegler refused, however, to comment on the allegations linking Mr. Strachan to knowledge of the Liddy-Hunt operation.

Mitchell Got Data

Mr. Chapin and Mr. Strachan earlier were publicly linked to the Segretti operation. The two aides were described as contact points for Mr. Segretti inside the White House.

It was further learned that Mr. Chapin, using the code name "Chapman," also supplied political intelligence to John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General who served as chairman of the Republican re-election campaign last year.

In a deposition in connection with a civil suit, made public last night, Mr. Mitchell said that the Nixon campaign had received confidential information supplied by a newsman traveling with the Democratic Presidential candidates last year.

The information included "off-the-cuff statements by the various candidates, information with respect to what they had said at different rallies or meetings that were not reported in the press," Mr. Mitchell said. "I must admit that a lot of it was pap," he added.

Chapin's Code Name

The former Attorney General said that the newspaperman had been identified in the reports only as "Chapman's friend," a code name that he added was also used for the same kind of information in the 1968 Presidential campaign. Asked if he knew to whom the code name referred, Mr. Mitchell said, "damned if I know."

Federal sources said that Mr. Chapin always used the code name "Chapman" in his covert intelligence dealings in connection with the 1972 campaign.

Mr. Mitchell's deposition, made last Sept. 5 in connection with a suit by Democrats against the Committee for the Re-election of the President, had been sealed during the Watergate trial.

A number of Government officials, in interviews, have privately expressed their dissatisfaction with the results thus far of their investigations into the intelligence and spying operations.

One official said that the Federal interrogators had left their interview with Mr. Chapin con-



Associated Press
Dwight L. Chapin

vinced that he was "shielding" someone else in the White House in connection with Mr. Segretti's alleged spying and sabotage operations.

The source added that Mr. Chapin, Mr. Strachan and Mr. Segretti had repeatedly maintained that the intelligence operation was "among themselves."

"It makes you wonder as a citizen," one Government official said in reference to Mr. Chapin's use of a code name, "when top-level White House guys go around leaving false names."

Another well-informed official criticized as inadequate and self-serving the in-house investigation of the Watergate case ordered by President Nixon. That study, conducted by John W. Dean, White House counsel, subsequently concluded that no one then on the White House staff had been involved in the Watergate incident.

The results of Mr. Dean's investigation have not been made available to the Watergate prosecuting team, sources said. "The White House hasn't done any more than it has to about this," one official remarked caustically.

"This case is a loser," another official complained. "Anybody who touches this has to lose." He explained that what Mr. Segretti allegedly did, in terms of spying and sabotage, "was not criminal, just not criminal."

"If you want to criticize the statutes because of this," the official added, "I'll be 100 per cent for it."

"All you can do" he said, "is take the position that an atmosphere, was created by this Administration which permitted Segretti to go on, and that this atmosphere also permitted an escalation to the Liddy operation."

Other officials in the Nixon Administration have said privately, however, that the Segretti operations should have been thoroughly explored by the F.B.I. and the Federal Grand jury to determine whether his activities did violate some statutes.

Particularly questionable, sources said, were the funds paid by Mr. Kalmbach to Mr. Segretti. In his statement to the Federal agents, the President's attorney is known to have contended that all payments to Mr. Segretti were made before April 7, 1972, the date a Federal law requiring detailed reporting of campaign receipts and expenditures went into effect.

In a report issued last week, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, accused the Government's agencies of not fully investigating what he termed "a wide range of espionage and sabotage" in the 1972 campaign.

It was understood that investigators from Mr. Kennedy's Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure issued subpoenas to both Mr. Segretti, a lawyer from Marina Del Ray, Calif., and Mr. Kalmbach, of Newport Beach, Calif., after the two men refused to discuss the intelligence operation voluntarily.

* "The money for Segretti's activities ... was paid from a trust account in a lawyer's name ... a high-placed friend of the President, and [Segretti] was instructed to guard that name zealously."

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