

Watergate Grand Jury Hears Two Former White

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House Aides and Segretti

WASHINGTON, April 11—Two former White House aides and a man they are said to have hired for a campaign of espionage and sabotage against the Democrats last year appeared before the Watergate grand jury today.

Dwight L. Chapin, who resigned as President Nixon's appointments secretary to become an executive at United Air Lines early this year, was before the 23-member Federal panel for nearly two hours this afternoon.

Gordon C. Strahan, a onetime assistant to H. R. Haldeman, the White House chief of staff, preceded Mr. Chapin in testifying. Mr. Strahan is now general counsel of the United States Information Agency.

Both men were followed by Donald H. Segretti, a young lawyer from California, who was paid between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in Republican campaign funds last year by President Nixon's personal lawyer, Herbert W. Kalmbach.

None Will Comment

Numerous reports have linked both former White House aides with Mr. Segretti, who in turn was said to have recruited or tried to recruit agents in various parts of the country to spy on and disrupt Democratic campaigns last year.

None of the three men would comment afterward, and extraordinary precautions were taken to expose them as little as possible to reporters gathered in the third-floor corridors of the United States Courthouse here.

The grand jury was moved today from its usual chambers, where witnesses could be readily questioned as they entered and left. Today's proceedings were in a room with access to other exits.

Mr. Chapin, for example, walked quickly down a back stairway of the courthouse and drove away in a small sports car. Mr. Segretti emerged from the courthouse basement and left in a taxi.

"I have no comment on anything at this time," he said repeatedly.

The appearance of the three men was a clear sign that the grand jury, which indicted the seven men who either pleaded guilty or were convicted in January of the Watergate break-in, was broadening its inquiry to cover other clandestine operations last year.

The earlier indictments, hand-



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Donald H. Segretti, right, talking with reporters after appearing before the grand jury investigating the Watergate case. At left is William D'Amico, his lawyer.

ed up Sept. 15, named figures in the wiretapping at the offices of the Democratic National Committee such as E. Howard Hunt Jr., G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr.

The three—along with Bernard L. Barker, Eugenio R. Martinez, Frank A. Sturgis and Virgilio R. Gonzalez, all of Miami—either pleaded guilty or were convicted of conspiracy, burglary and eavesdropping in January.

The prosecution stuck closely to the wiretapping of the Democratic headquarters, to an unsuccessful effort to bug the offices of Senator George McGovern and to some of the financial arrangements involved.

All seven of the men were granted immunity from further prosecution and taken before the grand jurors after their trial. Only one of them, Liddy, is known to have balked at testifying, and he was found in contempt.

The conspirators were taken in handcuffs past reporters and testified in a grand jury room that faced directly on the main corridor of the courthouse. The arrangements today presented a sharp contrast.