

Chapin Received Segretti's Memos



Jack Anderson

PRESIDENT NIXON'S recently resigned appointment secretary, Dwight Chapin, has confessed to a grand jury that he received regular written reports on the Democratic presidential candidates from Donald Segretti.

Earlier, Segretti refused to answer questions, on the grounds of self-incrimination, about his activities as a Republican spy-saboteur.

Chapin swore behind closed doors that he hired Segretti, directed his activities and received reports in the mail from him. The reports contained information, which Chapin described as "virtually useless," on Senators George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey, Ed Muskie, Henry Jackson and Governor George Wallace.

"What have you done with these reports?" asked prosecutor Earl Silbert.

"I destroyed them," said Chapin, "usually the day that they were received. And if I may add, they were just one or two lines. It was something, for example of 'Muskie rally, poor attendance, people unenthusiastic. Candidate was 40 minutes late,' or something."

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UNDER BRISTLING cross-examination, the handsome, haughty Chapin offered no explanation for apparent contradictions, and once he declared imperiously that the employment of Segretti to sabotage the Democratic presidential campaign was none of the taxpayers' concern.

Chapin said he had given Segretti general instructions to go ahead with a sabotage campaign and had obtained White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman's approval afterwards.

"In other words," asked prosecutor Seymour Glanzer incredulously, "somebody had condoned it after you decided to do it. Where in the world would you get the idea that you had authority to go out and do it?"

"Well, I had authority to do a lot of things," retorted Chapin. "I had the authority to plan a presidential trip to China. I sure as hell had the authority to go and do some other things."

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BUT SOMEBODY asked you to plan the trip to China, didn't they?" Glanzer shot back, "... namely, the President."

"Yes."

"All right," pressed Glanzer, "who asked you to go out and recruit somebody to do (political sabotage work)?"

"I don't know that anybody asked me to do it." Chapin conceded only that Haldeman had given his approval.

The former presidential appointment secretary testified that he asked President Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, to pay Segretti but gave him no guidance on how Segretti was earning his money. Chapin also insisted he had no idea what financial arrangements were worked out.