

A Year for Phony Letter On Demos

Tampa, Fla.

George Hearing, a co-defendant of Republican campaign figure Donald Segretti, was sentenced to one year in prison yesterday for distributing a bogus campaign letter that accused two presidential hopefuls of sexual misconduct.

U.S. District Judge Ben Krentzman called Hearing's actions immoral and gave the 40-year-old Tampa accountant the maximum sentence.

Hearing pleaded guilty

May 11. Segretti, 28, a Los Angeles attorney, pleaded innocent.

A federal grand jury indictment returned in Orlando charged that the two men published and distributed a phony letter during the 1970 Florida presidential primary campaign. The letter was printed on the campaign stationery of Senator Edmund E. Muskie of Maine.

The phony letter said two of Muskie's rivals in the Democratic primary, Senators Henry M. Jackson of Washington and Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, were guilty of sexual misconduct.

Hearing pleaded guilty to one count of the two-count indictment in a bargain worked out with the prosecution. The U.S. attorney's office dismissed the second count in return for the guilty plea on the first one.

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