

Senators Told of Move to

PETERSEN'S HELP REPORTED SOUGHT

Role by Silbert Also Alleged
in Avoiding Link to Chapin,
Strachan and Kalmbach

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 25—The White House attempted to cover up the relationship between high Presidential aides and Donald H. Segretti, a young California lawyer who reportedly led a broad campaign of political sabotage during last year's primary elections, John W. Dean 3d said today.

Mr. Dean, former counsel to the President, testified before the Senate Watergate committee that he had arranged with Justice Department officials prosecuting the Watergate case not to ask Mr. Segretti any questions about who had employed or paid him during a grand jury appearance last year.

Mr. Dean said he told Henry E. Petersen, an assistant Attorney General who until last month was in charge of the Watergate prosecution, that it would be "quite embarrassing" if Mr. Segretti testified that he had been hired by two Presidential aides, Dwight L. Chapin and Gordon C. Strachan, and had been paid by Herbert W. Kalmbach, the President's personal lawyer.

"Mr. Petersen said that he understood the problem and would determine what he could do," Mr. Dean recalled about midway through his 245 pages of prepared testimony.

He said that he later learned from Mr. Segretti that the three names "had come out during [his] grand jury appearance" and asked Mr. Petersen about it.

The Justice Department official told him, he said, that Earl J. Silbert, the principal Assistant United States Attorney here who led the Watergate prosecution, "had tried to avoid getting into this area and in fact did not ask him the question which resulted in his giving the names."

Mr. Dean said he was told by Mr. Petersen that "a grand juror had asked the question despite the fact that the prosecutors had tried to gloss it over."

Mr. Dean, who today a central role in an attempt by the White House to prevent the Government's investigation from uncovering an involvement of top Nixon campaign officials in Watergate, disclosed that he had had a number of contacts with Mr. Segretti last summer and fall.

He first met with the young lawyer in late June of 1972, he said, after being informed by Mr. Strachan that Mr. Segretti was worried about a request by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for an interview.

The F.B.I. first discovered Mr. Segretti's existence shortly after the June 17 Watergate break-in through the long-distance telephone records of E. Howard Hunt Jr., one of the seven men convicted in the Watergate trial in January.

Mr. Segretti has told the F.B.I. that he received some instructions from Hunt, whom he knew as "Ed Warren," dur-



United Press International
Donald H. Segretti



Associated Press
Henry E. Petersen

ing the early months of his alleged sabotage effort, which reportedly began in February of last year.

During a meeting at the Mayflower Hotel here in June, Mr. Dean said, "Segretti told me that Hunt had 'scared him' and that he had really decided early-on to deal with him as little as possible."

Mr. Segretti then asked whether he should mention the Chapin, Strachan and Kalmbach names in his forthcoming F.B.I. interview, Mr. Dean said, and added he had advised Mr. Segretti to "withhold the names . . . unless the F.B.I. felt it was absolutely necessary to have [them]."

Several days later, Mr. Dean recalled, Mr. Segretti telephoned him to report that the interview "had gone very well" and that he had not had to reveal the names. Mr. Segretti was indicted with one other man by a Federal grand jury in Orlando, Fla., last May, on charges of distributing false campaign literature during the 1972 Presidential primary there.

He met Mr. Segretti again, Mr. Dean said, in Miami Beach last August, a few days before the Republican campaign operative was scheduled to appear before the grand jury.

Mr. Dean said that before the "very brief" meeting, he had received Mr. Petersen's assurance that he "would determine what he could do." He said he told Mr. Segretti that he "did not believe that the Government was particularly interested in pursuing the names of Strachan, Chapin and Kalmbach . . . and I doubted if he would be asked any questions."

COVER UP TIES BETWEEN HIGH NIXON AIDES AND SEGRETTI

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