

## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

## Nixon Spy Also Worked '68 Campaign

By Jack Anderson

The 1968 Nixon presidential campaign employed the same spying tactics against Hubert Humphrey — and the same spy — as in 1972 when it hired a reporter to work as a GOP "plant."

The reports of Seymour Freidin, the mysterious "Chapman's Friend" of the Watergate case, were filed at least three times a day from the Humphrey camp in 1968, sometimes reaching the Nixon campaign plane in mid-flight by "TWX" transmission.

The capable Freidin was perfectly suited for the job. While working as a newsman in Europe in the '50s and '60s, he was a valued informant for the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA paid him small sums for hotels, travel, meals and other purposes.

In turn, Freidin came up with some resounding scoops and even handled some of the delicate negotiations toward the 1955 Geneva summit meeting between President Eisenhower and Russian leaders.

Freidin, a former foreign editor for the old New York Herald Tribune and now London bureau chief for Hearst newspapers, did not tell the Hearst pa-

pers of his CIA or campaign espionage stints when he went to work for them.

Neither did the McGovern camp nor the Humphrey forces know that he was getting \$11,000 and \$6,000 respectively from the GOP while he was covering their campaigns. Indeed, our queries to old Humphrey aides stirred fears that Freidin was merely the tip of a 1968 Watergate iceberg.

Newsmen on the Humphrey plane recalled Freidin's poker-playing skill, his friendliness and the vagueness with which he talked about his news assignments. While Freidin may not have been working as a full-time reporter, Murray Chotiner, a 1968 Nixon campaign official, confirmed to my associate Les Whitten that he was "working a seven-day week" for the GOP.

At least three times each day Freidin called in his reports to Chotiner's secretary through a special phone on her desk which was kept clear of all other calls. Chotiner immediately edited the material to correct any dictation errors, then sent the massive reports quickly by TWX radio-wire machine to campaign aide H. R. Haldeman aboard the Nixon plane.

Some of it reached the presidential plane in mid-air, with other copies going speedily to

Mr. Nixon's campaign chief John N. Mitchell and other high campaign officials. The material was basically journalistic-type reports which provided Mr. Nixon advance knowledge of what the newspapers would be carrying and thus gave him valuable extra time to prepare his comments.

Chotiner insists that neither the 1968 or 1972 activities were "spying" and said he believes the 1968 expenditures for Freidin were duly accounted for to federal authorities though not under Freidin's name.

**Gainful Employer** — Able Dan Evans, chairman of the national Governors' Conference and a GOP vice presidential possibility, has quietly provided a disgraced Republican hatchetman with a \$25,000 federally funded job.

Evans was handily re-elected to the Washington state governor's chair in 1972 over former Democratic governor Albert Rosellini. One of the pro-Evans infighters in the rough-and-tumble campaign was the number two man in the state attorney general's office, Keith Dysart.

The personable and capable Dysart, a friend and former law associate of deposed White House aide John Ehrlichman, assembled information linking Rosellini to a well-known Seat-

tle gambler. Though Dysart was on the state payroll, he tried to interest a Seattle newspaper and TV station in carrying the material.

Then, a few days before the election, the 31-year-old Dysart was suspended for his scandal-peddling by Attorney General Slade Gorton. Evans and other responsible GOP politicians quickly disclaimed any role in Dysart's dirty work, and Dysart gutsily took the blame on himself. Nevertheless, the 10-day suspension focused public attention on the Rosellini charges and the former Democratic governor was defeated.

This January, Dysart quit his job with the attorney general's office, but his suspension made finding a permanent job difficult. Finally, Evans, as chairman of the prestigious national Governor's Conference, was able to get him approved as a \$25,000-a-year lawyer with the Council of State Governments, the parent group to Evans' own Governor's Conference. By all accounts, Dysart is capably filling the job.

In our long talks with Dysart, he insists it is "totally false," as some Democrats believe, that he took a fall to get his Rosellini material into the news just before election. The new job, both he and Evans contend, is no pay-off for hatchet work.

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