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# Silence of Witnesses To Delay Senate Probe

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Former White House appointment secretary Dwight Chapin and a Florida Young Republican leader, Robert Melton Benz, have refused to testify before the Senate select Watergate committee as scheduled next week.

Both men, who were to testify about political "dirty tricks," have informed the committee that they would invoke the Fifth Amendment in response to all questions if they were called as witnesses, according to informed sources.

As a result, the committee decided yesterday to cancel both their appearances and the Tuesday hearing session at which they were to appear. The Watergate hearings are now scheduled to resume Wednesday.

The next witness to be called is Donald H. Segretti, a confessed political saboteur for the Nixon re-election campaign who is scheduled to plead guilty Monday in federal court here to carrying out illegal sabotage against the Democratic presidential candidates in the 1972 campaign.

Segretti has been cooperating in the Watergate investigation of Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox in return for special considera-

tion in his own criminal case. Following his guilty plea, he is expected to be granted limited immunity from further prosecution for his testimony before the Senate committee.

Chapin hired Segretti, a former classmate at the University of Southern California, to conduct political espionage and sabotage in 1972. The Senate committee had sought to question Chapin about these activities and his supervision of Segretti.

Chapin has already testified before the federal grand jury here investigating the Watergate affair. He was eased out of the White House following the 1972 election when his ties to Segretti became publicly known. He now works for United Airlines in California.

Segretti, often using the code name of "Donald Simmons," hired many young men across the country to carry out sabotage chores as posing as pickets and demonstrators against potential Democratic Presidential candidates that the Republicans wanted to lose in the 1972 primaries.

Robert Benz was hired by Segretti for this kind of work in Florida, where Benz, 25, had been a county Young Republican Club chairman. Benz, who lives in Tampa, was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Sept. 17, 1973, indictment of Segretti here.

Among other things, the indictment alleged that Benz distributed at a George Wallace rally in Pinellas County, Florida, cards that stated, "If you like Hitler, you'll love Wallace . . . Vote for Muskie."

Benz also is alleged in the indictment to have received in the mail and distributed in Florida phony "Help Muskie Support Busing Our Children Now" posters.