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**Segretti Describes Chapin  
As Boss of 'Dirty Tricks'**

By **DAVID E. ROSENBAUM**  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — Donald H. Segretti testified today that he had reported regularly last year to President Nixon's appointments secretary about the "dirty tricks" he was playing on candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Segretti, who pleaded guilty this week to three misdemean-

Portions of Segretti testimony appear on Page 32.

ors related to illegal activities before the 1972 Presidential primary in Florida, told the Senate Watergate committee that he had no reason to believe that Mr. Nixon knew of his work.

But the seemingly meek, pale 32-year-old lawyer said that he

considered Dwight L. Chapin his "boss" throughout the time he was conducting his political sabotage operations.

Mr. Chapin left his position as White House appointments secretary in January to take an executive job with United Air Lines. He has refused to testify before the Senate committee, claiming his constitutional privilege against self-incrimination. In three interviews with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, however, Mr. Chapin maintained that Segretti operated on his own and that, after hiring him, he heard little from him.

Segretti gave the committee a long rundown on the various pranks and tracks he played with an eye toward creating

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**SEGRETTI ASSERTS  
CHAPIN WAS BOSS**

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confusion and divisiveness among the Democratic candidates.

He received his general instructions from Mr. Chapin, he testified, and, "as a general matter of course," kept Mr. Chapin informed about what he was doing.

Segretti told the committee how, during the Florida primary, he sent out a phony letter on the stationery of Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine that accused two rival candidates, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota and Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington of sexual misconduct.

**Letter Cost \$20**

This letter, which, he said, cost him \$20 to have reproduced, led to Segretti's guilty plea on charges of distributing false campaign literature.

After he sent the letter, Segretti testified, Mr. Chapin told him something like "for your \$20, you received \$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of free publicity, but be careful next time."

Segretti's testimony was cut short this morning after the committee received a threat

that a bomb had been placed in the Senate Caucus Room. The police found no bomb, and Segretti concluded his testimony in the afternoon.

Throughout his five hours at the witness table, Segretti appeared apologetic and subdued, his hands folded on the gray felt tablecloth and his small frame hunched forward on his elbows. He stands but 5 feet 4 inches, and the fact that he has stayed indoors, away from newsmen, for much of the last year was evidenced in his pale complexion.

"To the extent my activities have harmed other persons and the political process, I have the deepest regrets," he told the committee.

But he complained that his "activities have been blown out of all proportion by the news media."

**Testimony Awaited**

Most political experts believe that Segretti's efforts during the primaries had no effect on their outcome, and Segretti agreed today with the comment by Theodore H. White in "The Making of the President 1972" that his attempts at sabotage had "the weight of a feather."

Senior Democratic staff members on the committee said last summer that the committee's investigation of "dirty tricks" would prove to be more explosive than its Watergate inquiry and that it would be shown that Nixon aides had

helped to engineer the nomination of Senator George McGovern of South Dakota.

However, the testimony of Segretti, considered the committee's star witness, by all accounts produced no such conclusion.

Segretti began by telling the committee how he had been reached in 1971 by Mr. Chapin and another White House aide, Gordon C. Strachan, both classmates of his at the University of Southern California in the early nineteen-sixties.

Upon his discharge from the Army in September, 1971, Segretti said, he met again with Mr. Chapin and Mr. Strachan and went to work for the Nixon campaign.

During the next six months, he said, he was paid about \$45,000 in salary and expenses by Herbert W. Kalmbach, then Mr. Nixon's personal attorney. Mr. Kalmbach did not know the nature of his work, Segretti said.

He told the committee that he would not have taken the job if he had not thought he was working for the White House and had he not been paid such a substantial amount.

**Combination of Factors'**

He accepted the position, he testified, because of a "combination of factors: My lack of any concrete career plans, my friendship and respect for Mr. Chapin and Mr. Strachan, my belief in the re-election of President Nixon, the opportunity

of working for the White House and the change of pace from my Army duties."

From September until June, he testified, he traveled the country, going into states where there were important primary elections and, often "over a couple of beers," thinking up ways to sow divisiveness among the Democratic Presidential candidates.

Among his pranks were the following:

He distributed posters during the Florida primary reading "Help Muskie in Busing More Children Now," signed by a fictitious group called the "Mothers Backing Mukie Committee."

He placed an advertisement in a college newspaper stating, "Wanted. Sincere Gentleman Seeks Running Mate. White Preferred but Natural Sense of Rhythm no Obstacle. Contact E. Muskie."

He placed another ad in a Miami newspaper widely read by Jews that said, "Sen. Muskie, Would You Accept a Jewish Running Mate?" Muskie had commented that the time was not right for a black Vice-Presidential candidate.

On the instructions of Mr. Chapin, he arranged for pickets during a speech by Mr. Muskie in California in late 1971 and hired a private detective to trail the Senaotr.

He hired two accomplices, one of whom broke into the Muskie headquarters in Florida and planted a "stink bomb."

He distributed a false letter on the stationery of former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota urging McCarthy supporters to switch to Senator Humphrey and another similar letter that was sent to supporters of Representative Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn.

He distributed a number of other phony letters and press releases and arranged for pickets at dozens of political rallies.

**First Instruction**

One of his first instructions from Mr. Chapin, he declared, was to place Muskie placards among rowdy demonstrators at President Nixon's public appearances and to arrange for signs favoring opposition candidates at rallies conducted by the various Democratic contenders.

At first, he said, he was told by Mr. Chapin to concentrate on disrupting Senator Muskie's candidacy, but, when Mr. Muskie's star began to fade, Segretti was instructed to try to drive a wedge between Mr. Muskie and the other candidates.

Segretti said that he was not involved in the burglary of the Democratic headquarters at the Watergate hotel in June, 1972, but that he stopped his activities thereafter. He began seeking legal advice from John W. Dean 3d, then the White House counsel.

Over the next few months, Segretti said, he met several times with Mr. Dean, who advised him to tell the truth to

F.B.I. agents but not to volunteer information.

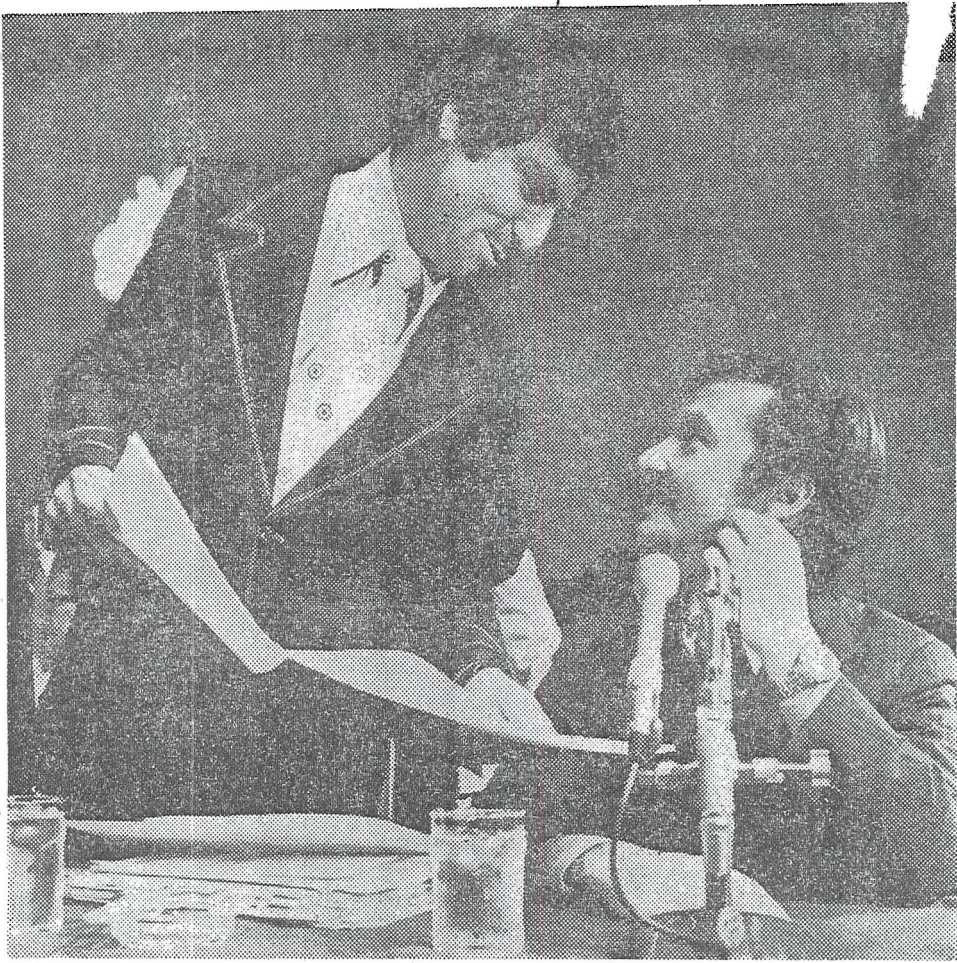
In October, The Washington Post published an article giving the sketchy outlines of the Republican sabotage operation. Segretti said that he then came to Washington, met with Mr. Dean and discussed with him what kind of statement he should issue.

The next day, he testified, Mr. Dean told him that he should make no comment because "the media people decided that things will die on their own volition."

Mr. Dean told the committee last June that Ronald L. Ziegler, the Presidential press secretary, discussed with top staff members what kind of statement the White House should issue about the Segretti operations. Mr. Ziegler, at a press briefing, then characterized the say, innuendo and guilt by association.

"Exactly the same cover-up was pursued with relation to the Segretti operation that was pursued with regard to Watergate," Senator Herman E. Talmadge, the Georgia Democrat, remarked.

Tomorrow, the committee will turn to the two men that Segretti hired, Robert Melton Benz and Martin Kelly. Staff members said that they expected the inquiry into "dirty tricks" to run through next weekend and for the investigation of campaign financing to last three additional weeks.



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**Donald H. Segretti, seated, conferring at yesterday's Senate Watergate hearing with his lawyer, Victor Sherman. Segretti spent five hours testifying about his activities.**