

Nixon Aide Murray Chotiner Dies

Washington

Murray Chotiner, 64, Washington attorney and political adviser to President Nixon for almost three decades, died at the Washington Hospital Center here early yesterday of a massive pulmonary thromboembolism, or large blood clot.

His death was the direct result of a broken leg Chotiner had. But complications set was involved in a collision January 23, Dr. James L. Luke, the District of Columbia medical examiner, ruled after an autopsy yesterday.

Doctors had expected to release Chotiner today from Sibley Hospital, where he was taken after the accident, but complications set in late Tuesday night and he was transferred to the hospital center.

President Nixon said Chotiner was a "valued counselor and a trusted colleague. But above all, Murray Chotiner was my friend."

"While some recoil from the label 'politician,'" Mr. Nixon said, "Murray was rightly proud of it because he was a professional who



MURRAY CHOTINER
Massive blood clot

had the respect and admiration of those who worked with him. He will forever have my gratitude. I shall miss him."

Since March, 1971, Chotiner had been a counsel with Harrison, Lucey, Sagle and Solter, a law firm with offices across the street from the White House.

Chotiner had planned to open a new firm, Chotiner and Webster, with attorney

George Webster tomorrow, according to Earl Mazo, Nixon biographer and Chotiner family friend.

The blood clot that caused death had formed around the fracture, Dr. Luke said, then moved to the lungs, where it interfered with the flow and oxygenation of blood. When a clot migrates, the situation immediately becomes an emergency, medical authorities agreed yesterday.

The accident occurred about 9 a.m. January 23 in front of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's home in McLean, Va.

Chotiner was born Oct. 4, 1909, in Pittsburgh. He was graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1926, and took his law degree three years later at Southwestern University in Los Angeles.

He was in private practice in Beverly Hills and active in local Republican party affairs into the early 1940s. In 1942, he managed Earl Warren's successful California gubernatorial campaign.

"Murray said that people remembered him for making Nixon," Mazo recalled yesterday, "but he would say, 'The real man I created was Earl Warren.'"

In the first Nixon campaign, to unseat Democratic Representative Jerry Voorhis, advertisements appeared saying a vote for Mr. Nixon would be a vote against "communist-dominated" influences. Mr. Nixon won.

Four years later, Chotiner managed Mr. Nixon's successful campaign for the Senate against Helen Gahagan Douglas.

When Mr. Nixon ran for vice president in 1952, Chotiner was national campaign manager, and in 1978 he was a special assistant to the manager of Mr. Nixon's presidential bid.

Soon after the President's inauguration, Chotiner was named general counsel for the White House office, handling trade negotiations. In 1970 he was named special counsel to the President, a post he held until March, 1972.

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