

Nixon Among Mourners for His Friend Chotiner

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—President Nixon was there. So were Nixonians past and present. And so, surprisingly, was Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., the Connecticut Republican who has attacked many of the acts of the Administration.

The occasion was the funeral of Murray M. Chotiner, the rotund California lawyer who helped launch Mr. Nixon's career and remained around him—sometimes visible, sometimes in the shadows—a kind of constant reminder of that phase of the President's career that involved him with Helen Gahagan Douglas and Alger Hiss and Jerry Voorhis and Joseph R. McCarthy.

Mr. Chotiner, who died last Wednesday after an automobile accident, was the sort of politician who is always described as "controversial," meaning that many people did not like

him. But the several hundred people who attended his funeral, and those who spoke about him, obviously liked him very much.

Irving Ferman, a law professor at Howard University, described Mr. Chotiner's personal life, not his political life, speaking of his "utterly refreshing wit," his "thoughtfulness and courtesy toward everyone," his "concern for civil liberties."

Professor Ferman also commented upon his friend's contempt for "supplicants and courtiers" in public life. He did not apply the phrase specifically to the White House staff, but Mr. Chotiner, who was 64 years old at his death, had told his friends repeatedly in recent months of his dislike for the White House staff and his conviction that "those incompetent amateurs" had betrayed President Nixon in the Watergate scandals.

Two major Watergate figures were among the mourners—

Jeb Stuart Magruder, formerly the No. 2 man at the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, and Charles W. Colson, who gained wide repute as a White House practitioner of political "dirty tricks."

Mr. Chotiner's stepdaughter, Julie, 16, concluded the service by reading an essay she had written in school last year. Mr. Chotiner had seen the essay, on the subject of "My Hero," for the first time while hospitalized shortly before his death.

"My father has been a friend, adviser and counselor to the President of the United States," the long-haired young woman said in a halting voice. "I know he will do all he can to defend him no matter what."

If Mr. Chotiner were ever investigated, she added, "no one could find a trace of dishonesty. He is my hero and I think he is one of the best men around."

Mr. Nixon and his wife

walked from the Washington Hebrew Congregation Temple close behind the flag-draped coffin. Outside, in the brilliant sunshine, he embraced members of the family and said to Mr. Chotiner's widow, Nancy, "He was a great guy."

Among the other mourners were Patrick Buchanan and Leonard Garment, former members of the White House staff; John Sears and Charles McWhorter, both of whom worked in Mr. Nixon's 1968 Presidential campaign; Victor Gold and Victor Lasky, conservative journalists, and former Senator George Murphy of California.

The only current Senator on hand was Mr. Weicker.

Asked later how he, a liberal Republican and a critic of the Administration, happened to be there, Mr. Weicker said that in 1970, when he was locked in a primary with a conservative Republican opponent, many Nixon advisers urged the President to oppose Mr. Weicker.