

# Ex-Nixon Aide Chapin on Trial

Washington

The trial of former White House Appointments Secretary Dwight L. Chapin opened yesterday with quick selection of a jury in the courtroom of U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell.

The trial, expected to last about a week, will focus on the relationship of Chapin and the White House to the activities of convicted political saboteur Donald H. Segretti during the 1972 presidential primary elections.

It will be the first criminal trial for the Office of Special Watergate Prosecutor Leon Jaworski.

Segretti, who was released from federal prison at Lompoc, Calif., last month after serving four months and 20 days for campaign law violations, will be the prosecution's lead-off witness against Chapin this morning.

Chapin, 33, was indicted last November on four counts of making false statements to a federal grand jury probing the harassment and sabotage activities of Segretti against Democratic presidential contenders.

The grand jury charged that Chapin lied when he denied knowledge of Segretti's activities or the arrangements for Segretti's pay. The two men were classmates in the 1960s at the University of Southern California.

Chapin would face maximum punishment of 20 years in prison and a \$40,000 fine if convicted of all four counts.

Segretti, in testimony before the Senate Watergate Committee last October, said he gave Chapin regular, detailed reports of his "dirty tricks" against Democrats in 1971 and 1972. However, Segretti said he thought up most of the operations himself.

Segretti acknowledged re-

ceiving \$45,000 for his work from Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's personal attorney.

Jacob A. Stein, Chapin's defense attorney, told Gesell he will seek to prove that if Chapin's statements to the grand jury were inaccurate, this occurred "by mistake or inadvertence." Chapin will say he did not intend to make a false statement, Stein said.

He said Kalmbach told Chapin he had worked out a financial agreement with Segretti. But Chapin's knowledge of these payments was only "incidental" and there was no reason for him to remember the details, Stein said.

Kalmbach and John W. Dean III, whom Mr. Nixon fired last year as White House counsel, will also testify for the prosecution. Excerpts of recorded White House conversations in which Dean discussed Chapin with the President are expected to be introduced at the trial.

In selecting a largely middle-class jury of seven men and five women, Gesell questioned prospective jurors closely about how much they had read about Watergate-related cases or had heard over radio and television.

Most said they had kept abreast of news events but felt they could render a fair verdict based on the evidence presented in court.

The jurors, seven blacks and five whites, will be sequestered in a nearby motel to shield them from news stories and broadcasts arising from the trial.

Chapin, who resigned from his White House job in early 1973, was accused of lying during a grand jury appearance on April 11, 1973. He was working at that time as a marketing executive for United Air Lines in Chicago, but went on a leave of absence after his indictment.

Back Page Col. 3

From Page 1

ceiving \$45,000 for his work

Los Angeles Times