

# Chapin On Stand ---Denies He Lied

Washington

Dwight L. Chapin, denying anew that he lied to a federal grand jury, told his perjury trial yesterday that he had "no reason to withhold any answers."

Chapin, the last of three defense witnesses, testified, however, that he tried to keep from the grand jury the fact that H.R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff, had approved the activities of political saboteur Donald H. Segretti.

The 33-year old former appointments secretary to President Nixon is charged in three counts with making false statements when he testified last April before the grand jury.

A fourth count — that he lied in saying he didn't know how much Segretti was paid — was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell after the prosecution rested its case.

The defense rested in late afternoon, but only after prosecutors had won from Chapin an admission that he had misstated facts to the FBI in two interviews.

Chapin admitted that he had received some of Segretti's fake literature in the mail.

"If I had been concerned that Segretti was going to do something that was embarrassing to the President of the United States he would not have been out there," Chapin said of the man he recruited to sabotage Democratic campaigns.

Chapin also said that the President "never in any way was aware of Mr. Segretti's activities."

Gesell said that closing arguments would be today and that the case can go to the

jury by noon.

Each count against Chapin carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Assistant special prosecutor Richard J. Davis asked Chapin why he left blanks in two paragraphs of a chronology of his activity that he left with former presidential counsel John W. Dean on March 1, 1973, when Chapin left the White House for a job with United Air Lines.

One of those paragraphs begins: "Gordon Strachan brought the subject to the attention of — and Herbert Kalmbach at a White House meeting. It was approved for Segretti to be hired."

The blank space, Chapin said, referred to Haldeman.

Later in the memorandum there is a reference to checks by G. Gordon Liddy of an agent in the field and Strachan checked "two people" about it.

The reference, Chapin said, was to Haldeman and John N. Mitchell, the former attorney general.

"Why did you leave them blank?" asked Chapin's attorney, Jacob A. Stein.

"I didn't want to involve Haldeman."

Asked why, Chapin said, "his involvement was approval . . . I did not want that to come out."

Q. Why not?

A. Because I worked a number of years for Haldeman and I didn't want him involved in this particular matter.

Chapin said he was reluctant still to involve Haldeman when he appeared before the grand jury on April

11, 1973.

The defense put on two witnesses ahead of Chapin to testify about his character — Nellie L. Yates, a White House secretary since 1954 and John C. Whitaker, undersecretary of interior.

The defense claims that Chapin was so busy in late

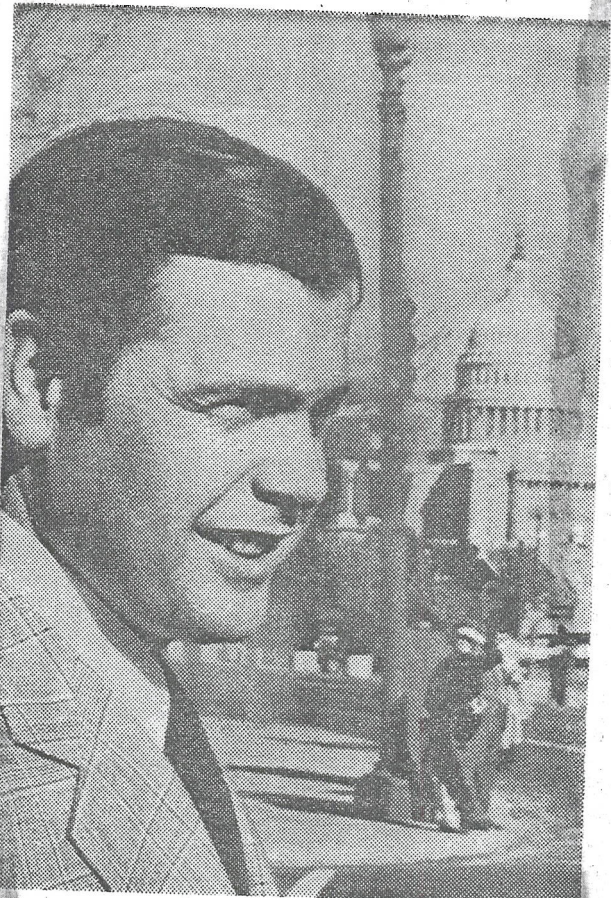
1971 and early 1972, while Segretti was conducting his sabotage against Democratic candidates that he had little opportunity to follow Segretti's activities.

Mrs. Yates said Chapin sometimes saw 75 documents a day and answered at least 50 telephone calls.

"Among the people you know who know Mr. Chapin, did they ever discuss in your presence his reputation for truth and honesty?" Stein asked.

"I think it's excellent," said Mrs. Yates, adding: "I do think he had a bad memory."

Associated Press



UPI Telephoto

Dwight Chapin left the court after his testimony yesterday.