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AP Wirephoto

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Chapin were surrounded by newsmen after Chapin's conviction of perjury

# Ex-Nixon Aide Is Guilty of Perjury

Washington

Dwight L. Chapin, president Nixon's former appointments secretary, was found guilty yesterday of lying to a Watergate grand jury.

The special Watergate prosecutor's office thus won the first case it brought to trial.

Chapin, who worked for four years in an office adjacent to the President's, was convicted of making two

false statements to a grand jury last April about his relationship with Donald H. Segretti

Segretti pleaded guilty to distributing bogus campaign literature about Democratic presidential candidates and served more than four months of a six-month prison sentence.

U.S. Judge Gerhard A. Gesell said Chapin would be sentenced on May 16.

He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine, but the actual sentence is expected to be considerably less severe.

Chapin was convicted of lying to the grand jury in the following two exchanges:

Q. To your knowledge, did Mr. Segretti ever distribute any statement of any kind, or any campaign literature of any kind?

A. Not that I am familiar with.

Q. Did you ever express any interest to him, or give

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him any directions or instructions with respect to any single or particular candidate?

A. Not that I recall.

The jury deliberated for 11 1/2 hours before returning a verdict.

The jury acquitted Chapin of one count and part of another, and Gesell dismissed one count before it ever went to the jury.

Chapin took the witness stand in his own defense Wednesday and contended that he had told the literal truth in his exchanges with the grand jury.

He said that he did not know that Segretti personally had distributed any of the literature and that, while he had given Segretti general instructions, he had not told him to concentrate on any specific candidate.

Segretti himself was the principal government witness. He testified that he had regularly sent Chapin copies of the materials he was passing out—some of which Segretti conceded was scurrilous—and that Chapin

had told him to try to disrupt the campaign of Senator Edmund S. Muskie of Maine. In addition, the prosecutors produced a note in Chapin's handwriting in which he urged Segretti to take action against Muskie.

Chapin is the eighth one-time White House aide to be convicted since the break-in the Democratic national headquarters in June, 1972.

He left the White House staff in early 1973 to become an executive of United Air Lines and was placed on unpaid leave after he was indicted last December. At the

time, a United spokesman said that Chapin would be asked to resign if he were convicted of a crime.

Chapin, who is 33, sat expressionless as the jury's verdict was announced. After Gesell dismissed the jury and set the date for sentencing, Chapin walked to the rear of the courtroom, and kissed his wife, Susan, who was in tears.

He later told reporters, "I'm going to continue to fight for my innocence. On the day I was indicted, I went out on my front lawn and said I was innocent. I intend to fight this thing all the way through."

The charges against Chapin did not involve the Watergate burglary or even political spying and sabotage but simply whether he told the truth when he testified under oath before the grand jury.

Chapin's duties in the White House were principally administrative and clerical. He was not involved in policy-making. But he arranged the President's schedules and travel and went with Mr. Nixon to China in 1972.

He was especially close to H. R. Haldeman, the former White House chief of staff. One person who was familiar with White House operations during the first four years of the Nixon's administration described him as "Haldeman's Haldeman—the one who carried Haldeman's coat when Haldeman carried the President's."

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