

CHAPIN CONVICTED OF LYING TO JURY ON SEGRETTI LINK

APR 6 1974

A 10-Year Sentence Possible
for Former Aide to Nixon,
but He Plans Appeal

JURY IS OUT 11½ HOURS

The Watergate Prosecutor
Wins First Case—White
House Bars Comment
NYTimes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 5 —
Dwight L. Chapin, President
Nixon's former appointments
secretary, was found guilty to-
day on two accounts of lying
to a Watergate grand jury.

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

Mr. Chapin, who worked for
four years in an office adjacent
to the President's, was con-
victed of making two false
statements to a grand jury last
April about his relationship
with Donald H. Segretti.

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

10-Year Term Possible

Judge Gerhard A. Gesell of
the United States District Court
here said that Mr. 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 con-
siderably less severe.

He said that he would appeal
the verdict.

Mr. 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
him any directions or instruc-
tions with respect to any
single or particular candi-
date? A. Not that I recall.

The jury acquitted Mr. Chap-
in on one other count and

part of another, and Judge
Gesell dismissed one count be-
fore it went to the jury.

11½-Hour Deliberation

The jury deliberated for 11½
hours before returning a ver-
dict.

Mr. 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 had not
known that Mr. Segretti had
personally distributed any of
the literature and that, while
he had given Mr. Segretti gen-
eral instructions, he had not
told him to concentrate on any
specific candidate.

Mr. Segretti was the prin-
cipal Government witness. He
testified that he had regularly
sent Mr. Chapin copies of the
materials he was passing out
—some of which Mr. Segretti
conceded was scurrilous—and
that Mr. Chapin had told him
to try to disrupt the campaign

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of Senator Edmund S. Muskie
of Maine. In addition, the prose-
cutors produced a note in Mr.
Chapin's own handwriting in
which he urged Mr. Segretti to
take action against Senator
Muskie.

The White House press office
said tonight that there could
be no comment, since the Presi-
dent and his top aides were on
their way to France for Presi-
dent Pompidou's funeral.

Mr. Chapin is the eighth
one-time White House aide to
be convicted since the Water-
gate burglary in June, 1972.

He left the White House staff
early in 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 Mr.
Chapin would be asked to re-
sign if he were convicted of a
crime.

Throughout yesterday after-
noon and today, as the jury
deliberated, Mr. Chapin talked
amicably with reporters, law-
yers and court officials and
played an occasional game of
backgammon with his parents.
His wife and several friends
played a constant game of gin
rummy in a small waiting room
across the hall from Judge
Gesell's courtroom.

Friends Wait for Decision

Among the friends who
stayed with Mr. Chapin at the
courthouse while the jury was
out were Ronald H. Walker, di-
rector of the National Park
Service, and Bruce Herschen-
sohn, a White House speech
writer.

Mr. Chapin, 33 years old,
sat expressionless as the jury's
verdict was announced. After
Judge Gesell had dismissed the

jury and set the date for sen-
tencing, Mr. Chapin walked to
the rear of the courtroom and
kissed his wife, Susan, who
was in tears.

Afterward, he 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."

He said that he would return
to his home in Winnetka, Ill.,
next week.

The charges against Mr.
Watergate burglary or even
political spying and sabotage
but simply whether he had told
the truth when he testified un-
der oath before the grand jury.

Although the charges were
relatively minor, the special
prosecutor's office was espe-
cially interested in winning a
first of its cases to come to
trial.

Called 'Haldeman's Haldeman'

The assistant special prose-
cutor, Richard J. Davis, 28,
who worked previously in the
United States Attorney's office
in New York City, was the
most obviously nervous person
in the courthouse while the
verdict was being awaited.

Mr. 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 him 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
Administration described Mr.
Chapin as "Haldeman's Halde-
man — the one who carried
Haldeman's coat when Halde-
man carried the President's."

Since he was indicted last
December, there has been wide
spread but unconfirmed specu-
lation that the prosecutors were
principally interested in Mr.
Chapin as a potential witness
against Mr. Haldeman, who has
been charged with obstructing
justice by covering up the facts
of the Watergate burglary.

But Mr. Chapin, who pro-
claimed his loyalty to Mr.
Haldeman during the trial, ei-
ther could not or would not
provide evidence against him.

In his testimony, Mr. Chapin
acknowledged that he had hired
Mr. Segretti, an old friend at
the University of Southern Cali-
fornia in the early 1960's, to
play "political pranks" on the
Democratic Presidential candi-
dates.

But Mr. Chapin pictured him-
self as a busy man, concerned
with such weighty matters as
the trip to China, and he said
he had paid little attention to
Mr. Segretti's operations.

Mr. Segretti, however, re-
called telling Mr. Chapin about
printing a phony press release
on Senator Muskie's stationery
accusing Senators Hubert H.
Humphrey and Edmund S. Mus-
kie of drunkenness and sexual
misconduct. He testified that
release would raise.

Mr. Segretti also told of an-
other phony release falsely ac-
cusing Representative Shirley
Chisholm, the Brooklyn Demo-
crat, of having been in a mental
institution and said that Mr.
Chapin had laughed about the
release.