Segretti Tells Details Of Probe

New York

Convicted political saboteur Donald Segretti said yesterday original Watergate prosecutor Earl J. Silbert knew that he was paid by President Nixon's personal attorney, Herbert Kalmbach, and did not pursue the connection.

Segretti said Silbert referred to Kalmbach only as "Mr. K" during a grand jury interrogation, and then only after a grand juror asked Segretti who had paid his salary.

Silbert's nomination as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia is pending before the senate.

Segretti was interviewed on CBS' "60 Minutes."

He also said that John Dean, then a White House counsel, was apparently successful in his efforts to narrow the Justice Department's initial investigations of the Watergate break-in.

Segretti visited Dean at the White House when he learned he was to face the grand jury in 1972.

"John told me at that point not to be greatly concerned." Segretti said. "that the grand jury was investigating the Watergate, burglary. They were not investigating me. And they really wanted my knowledge as to Howard Hunt and perhaps other individuals. Perhaps Mr. (G. Gordon) Liddy."

Liddy and Hunt were among the defendants in the original Watergate break-in trial.

"John told me that he would contact (Assistant Attorney General) Henry Petersen and try and put some parameters on the area of inquiry to me," Segretti said. "There were, it seemed to me, some parameters on their inquiry as to me."

Segretti said he wanted to be fair to Silbert, and that the prosecutor of the original seven Watergate burglars may not have known the whole Segretti-Kalmbach relationship.

Segretti also said the FBI had given a New York Times reporter raw, unevaluated data about Segretti from confidential files.

"The reason given me was that the FBI wanted to make itself appear — and wanted to show the press and the world — that they had investigated me thoroughly, that they did do a good job. That they did not cover up on my investigation," Segretti said.

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