



JOEL KLINE
... a new project?

Segretti, Kline Talk About

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Joel Kline, the one time "boy wonder" stock manipulator who has admitted committing every white-collar crime except forgery, has expressed to friends an interest in conducting a study of political and governmental corruption.

Among those with whom Kline discussed his idea was a relatively new acquaintance, Donald H. Segretti, the "dirty trickster" of the 1972 Nixon presidential campaign, according to Kline's friends.

Segretti and Kline, both in their 30s, were inmates this spring at Ft. Holabird outside Baltimore where federal marshals have a "safe house" for important federal witnesses.

There is no indication that Kline hoped to enlist Segretti in the anti-corruption project. Although people with whom Kline has discussed the matter say he sounded serious, some say he has finally decided against the project.

One friend said he sensed a new "Ralph Nader-type" instinct in Kline. "He seemed to be searching for an outlet," said another associate who has talked with Kline since his release from confinement in March.

Kline was a key government witness in the corruption trial of Baltimore County Executive Dale Anderson. He is currently providing information to both state and federal prosecutors for their continuing investigation of Maryland political corruption.

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Corruption

Kline, 34, began serving a six-month sentence in early November after pleading guilty to one count of obstruction of justice in connection with Securities and Exchange Commission investigation.

Before his conviction, Kline had been regarded as an extraordinarily skilled businessman. By finesse and charm he had accumulated a fortune from land speculation, phony corporations and stock manipulation. He is currently the center of a \$5 million bankruptcy proceeding:

None of Kline's friends who spoke with The Washington Post wanted to be named.

There were several versions of just what Kline had in mind for his project.

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DONALD H. SEGRETTI
... chats in jail

KLINE, From C1

One associate said Kline wanted to write a book about corruption. Another said Kline hoped to obtain a grant to conduct research on corruption, and wanted to become an investigator of wrongdoing.

"He was just beginning to develop a concept," said one person who has talked with Kline. "He felt that corruption was very pervasive. He wanted to do something but he had only the seed of an idea," the friend said.

Segretti, who conducted political sabotage with money from a secret Nixon campaign fund, was released on probation in March after serving 4½ months of a six-month prison sentence for his role in distributing illegal campaign material.

Segretti spent about a

month of his sentence in the relatively comfortable dormitory-style house at Ft. Holabird.

Segretti and Kline each had a private room with bath at Ft. Holabird, but they often ate together and chatted.

The two had had lunch together at least twice in Washington since March, according to associates. They were seen lunching once at Duke Zeibert's Restaurant, which was a Kline favorite before his conviction.

Friends said that Kline had "bounced" off Segretti his ideas for some kind of study although no formal offer of collaboration was ever made.

Segretti, who is living in California, confirmed yesterday that he had "met Kline." But he would not comment beyond that.

Kline, who is reportedly

spending most of his time being interviewed by prosecutors, has remained inaccessible to reporters for months.