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Chapin Paid Salary In Prison

Chicago Daily News

Former Nixon aide Dwight L. Chapin was paid at the rate of \$45,000 a year by insurance tycoon W. Clement Stone while in federal prison on a prejury conviction.

Stone said Chapin, 36, former appointments secretary to President Nixon, did not work for the money because prison rules forbid it.

"We have a long-term contract with him," said Stone, who donated some \$2 million to Nixon's 1972 campaign. "He (Chapin) is a man of outstanding character and ability.

"He has made a lot of money for us. He took companies that were losing money and turned them around. He's a brain," Stone said.

Chapin was released April 2 from the Lompoc, Calif., minimum security federal prison camp after serving 7 months and 22 days, longer than six other Watergate figures released before him.

He was found guilty of lying when he denied to the Watergate grand jury that he had ordered Donald Segretti, Nixon's "dirty tricks" specialist, to concentrate on Sen. Edmund Muskie's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Chapin is on the payroll of W. Clement Stone Enterprises, which Stone said handles his non-insurance activities.

Chapin declined to discuss the payment of funds to him while in prison.

Stone and Chapin both said he was put on the Stone payroll after his conviction in April, 1974. Chapin resigned his job as a marketing executive for United Airlines after his indictment in November, 1973.

Stone, in discussing Chapin's conviction, said, "what's the difference? It is not fair to him and his family to hold this against him. We have a contract with him. He's in my employ."

Chapin, was originally sentenced to 30 months in prison, U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard Gesell cut the term to 6 to 18 months after an appeal.