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# Nixon Responsible for 'Sordid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Wright Patman of the House Banking Committee said today President Nixon, as chief of his re-election campaign, is directly responsible for the "most sordid political tactics ever employed by a major political party."

The Texas Democrat made the comment at a news conference which he said was called because of reports in today's Washington Post detailing alleged plans by Republicans to disrupt and sabotage efforts by Democratic presidential contenders earlier this year.

Referring to the Post story, Patman said "this is an attempt to substitute espionage for political discussion. It is a chapter out of the political handbooks of the totalitarian countries."

"President Nixon is in control of his own campaign. He is responsible," Patman said.

THE POST said in today's editions that the FBI has established that the Watergate bugging incident developed from a campaign of political spying and sabotage on behalf of Nixon's re-election.

The newspaper said the "massive" campaign was directed by White House officials and the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

THE POST REPORTED that White House aide Ken W. Clawson has acknowledged fabricating a letter that damaged the presidential campaign of Sen. Edmund M. Muskie—a statement Clawson denies.

Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic presidential nominee, said in Detroit "I've heard reports for months about the administration engaging in tactics of this kind."

"This is the warning that I've been giving about the Watergate thing, that it is not an isolated incident," he said adding "this is the thing that the American people have to understand about the significance of the Watergate case."

At the White House, press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler fended off questions about the Post account, saying they had already been dealt with by the Committee for the Re-Election of the President and by Clawson himself. Ziegler did say in response to a question that the President still has confidence

## Tactics,' Says Patman

in Clawson.

Beyond that, Ziegler would only refer to past Nixon statements disavowing any connection with the Watergate case, saying that no one presently employed in the White House was involved and calling the wiretapping attempt at Democratic headquarters a "reprehensible activity."

The newspaper quotes law-enforcement sources as saying the Clawson letter is the best example of a Republican strategy of sabotage directed at Democratic presidential contenders as early as 1971, before the primary campaigns began.

The Post said FBI agents have established that the break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic national headquarters also stemmed from the same

sabotage campaign directed by officials of the White House and the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Another example, the Post said, was alleged attempts by Donald Herbert Segretti to recruit GOP undercover agents to disrupt Democratic activities. The Post said Segretti, a former Treasury Department lawyer who now maintains offices in Marina Del Ray, Calif., has been identified in FBI reports as an operative of the Nixon campaign.

A SPOKESMAN for the Nixon committee, DeVan L. Shumway, said, "The

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—AP WIREPHOTO.  
Ken W. Clawson

# Nixon Responsible--Patman

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article in the Post is a piece of fiction."

The Post quoted investigators as saying the sabotage campaign included: "Following members of Democratic candidates' families; forging letters and distributing them under the candidates' letterheads; leaking false and manufactured items to the press; throwing campaign schedules into disarray; seizing confidential campaign files, and investigating the lives of dozens of Democratic campaign workers."

Clawson, deputy director of White House communications, could not be reached for comment Monday night. A newsman who telephoned his home was told via the White House switchboard that he had retired for the night and that his wife did not wish to awaken him.

The document Clawson allegedly wrote was a letter to the editor of the Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader. It accused the Maine senator of condoning a racial slur against Americans of French-Canadian descent by referring to them as "Canucks."

The letter, signed by a Paul Morrison of Deerfield Beach, Fla., said the

writer attended a Muskie appearance at Fort Lauderdale when someone asked the senator "what did he know about blacks and the problem with them—he didn't have any in Maine."

"A MAN WITH the senator said "no, not blacks, but we have Cannocks (sic)," the letter said. "What did he mean? We asked—Mr. Muskie laughed and said, 'Come to New England and see.'"

The Union Leader published the letter shortly before the primary in New Hampshire which has a great many attempts to trace the Florida man who supposedly wrote it failed to find anyone by that name in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

The letter and editorial attacks on Muskie by the Union Leader's publisher, William Loeb, prompted Muskie to make the now-famous tearful speech denouncing the newspaper and Loeb in front of the newspaper office. Then the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, Muskie subsequently began to slip in the public-opinion polls and fared worse than expected in the New Hampshire primary in March.

The Washington Post said reporter Marilyn Berger talked with Clawson about the letter on Sept. 25 and quot-

ed the White House aide as saying, "I wrote the letter."

On Monday, the Post said, Clawson was interviewed again and denied that he had made the statement. "I know nothing about it," said Clawson a Post newsman himself until taking the White House job last year.

The Post said information in the files of the FBI and Justice Department show that Republicans carried out a massive campaign of spying and sabotage during the primaries in an effort to throw their opponents into such disarray they could not mount a viable campaign against Nixon.

THE NEWSPAPER quoted federal investigators as saying the GOP operation far surpasses the normal level of campaign intelligence-gathering.

The Post said three attorneys told of being promised "big jobs" in government if they would act as undercover agents for the Nixon campaign and carry out various maneuvers to disrupt Democratic activities.

The Post said all three refused the offer. It identified them as Alex B. Shipley Jr. of Nashville, Tenn., Roger Lee Nixt of Dennison, Iowa, and Kenneth Griffiths of Atlanta, all of whom served with Segretti in Vietnam.