

Patman Bids 4 Nixon Aides Testify on Watergate Case

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 10 — Representative Wright Patman announced today that the House Banking and Currency Committee would meet Thursday in another attempt to investigate the break-in and alleged bugging of the Democratic headquarters.

The Texas Democrat, who is the committee chairman, issued copies of letters to four prominent advisers to President Nixon asking them to appear voluntarily at the session.

The chairman's effort to hold public hearings came after reports this morning in The Washington Post that the incident had been part of a larger espionage and sabotage campaign against the Democrats, waged on President Nixon's behalf.

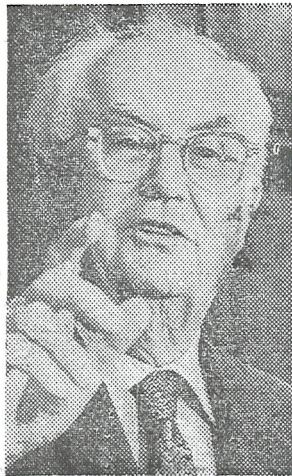
One of those invited was John Wesley Dean 3d, counsel to the President. The lawyer is known to have conducted a secret White House investigation of the June 17 break-in at the party headquarters in the Watergate complex.

Also asked to testify were John N. Mitchell, former chairman of the Committee to Re-elect the President; Clark MacGregor, the present chairman, and Maurice H. Stans, head of the Nixon campaign finance committee.

All four were invited to bring along any books and records in their possession dealing with various aspects of the incident.

Mr. Patman indicated a particular interest in financial transactions linked to it.

There was no indication that any of the four would testify voluntarily. A Republican member of the committee, Representative Ben B. Blackburn of Georgia, told newsmen that



Representative Wright Patman talks to newsmen.

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such a step was improbable.

"It is evident that he [Mr. Patman] has no new evidence and no new facts," Mr. Blackburn said. "It would be absolutely crazy for a witness to appear." He added that he thought most Republican members would boycott the committee session.

Mr. Patman was defeated last week, 20 to 15, in a committee vote on whether to approve subpoenas for an investigation of the Watergate break-in. All the Republican members present and six Democrats voted in the majority.

In the notice of the Thursday session, committee members were told that there would be a vote to reconsider the subpoena question. Mr. Patman apparently believes that public feeling about the incident may change the outcome.

Mr. Patman, who included a long attack on the Republicans in his announcement, also reported that the General Accounting Office had agreed to undertake "a full-scale investigation of the Watergate affair."

The accounting office, which has previously looked into the handling of campaign financing by both Republicans and Democrats, has agreed to report on the new investigation by Oct. 26.

The White House has repeatedly refused to make available the results of Mr. Dean's inquiry. Spokesmen have said only that it backs up the contention by Mr. Nixon and others that no one "presently employed" in the Administration or the campaign was involved in the break-in.

Two of the seven men indicted in the case, G. Gordon Liddy and James W. McCord Jr., were working for the Com-

mittee for the Re-election of the President when the bugging and wiretapping at Democratic headquarters allegedly took place.

A third man accused, E. Howard Hunt Jr., worked as a White House Consultant before the alleged wiretapping and bugging operations against the Democratic National Committee were broken up.

Mr. Patman invited Mr. Dean

to produce "books, records, memoranda, and any other data which would help the committee to understand the finding and scope of your investigation."

He made an identical request to Mr. MacGregor, who has said that the Committee for the Re-election of the President also investigated the break-in. The details of that inquiry have never been disclosed.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Stans were asked to produce documents dealing with \$114,000 in campaign contributions that subsequently turned up in a bank account controlled by Bernard L. Barker, one of the men arrested in the Watergate on June 17.

Mr. Patman also posed general questions dealing with Republican campaign funds. He told a news conference later that he believed there was "plenty of hot money" in the Watergate case. He did not elaborate.

The Post quoted Federal investigators as saying that the intelligence operations being carried out by the President's campaign organization this year "is unprecedented in scope and intensity."

It was designed, The Post said, to discredit the Democratic candidates for President and to disrupt their campaigns. The newspaper cited two main examples of the alleged espionage-sabotage effort.

Authorship Is Denied

The first involved a letter published Feb. 24 in the Manchester (N. H.) Union Leader in which Senator Edmund S. Muskie was accused of condoning the use of the epithet "Canucks" in reference to Americans with French-Canadian background.

Marilyn Berger, a Post reporter, asserted that Ken W. Clawson, Deputy Director of Communications for the executive branch, told her Sept. 25 that he had written the letter that appeared in The Union Leader.

Mr. Clawson denied authorship. He declined further comment on the charge today. The Post account provided few details of the reported admission.

The Post also reported that Donald H. Segretti, a man it said had been identified as "an operative of the Nixon re-election organization," had offered three lawyers jobs as agents provocateurs.

Mr. Segretti, The Post said,

denied making the offers. He was not available for comment today, and his ailing mother, reached in Los Angeles, said that she did not know where he was.

Officials at the Committee for the Re-election of the President denied that Mr. Segretti had ever been employed by the organization. Payroll reports for the period after April 7 do not include him.

One of the three lawyers, Alex B. Shipley, confirmed that Mr. Segretti asked him, on June 27, 1971, to help disrupt the Democratic primary campaigns and had suggested there would be a good job for him after the election.

Mr. Shipley, who is now an Assistant Attorney General of Tennessee, also said that Mr. Segretti had never said whom he was working for when the proposal was made and had put off questions by saying, "Don't ask any names."

The second lawyer, Kenneth Griffiths of Atlanta, denied that Mr. Segretti had offered him a job. The third, Roger Lee Nixt of Dennison, Iowa, refused to answer questions today.

The Post said that while both Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Nixt had declined to discuss Mr. Segretti's reported proposal in detail, they had both acknowledged that he had told them they would be engaged in secret operations.

A fourth lawyer, Peter Dixon of San Francisco, said today that Mr. Segretti approached him in mid-1971 about working on the President's campaign. He said that he turned down the offer before details of the "campaign work" were given.

Mr. Dixon, as well as Mr. Nixt, are reported to be enrolled Democrats.

The Post charged its article, without citing further examples, that Federal investigators had reported that the intelligence operations included the following activities:

"Following members of Democratic candidates' families and assembling dossiers on their personal lives; 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."