

SF Examiner
Hearing
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Opens on
Bugging

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Hearings on financial aspects of the Democratic headquarters break-in open today before the House Banking and Currency Committee, but without some key Republicans who were asked to testify.

One of those who said he wouldn't appear, President Nixon's campaign director, Clark MacGregor, called the hearings "solely political."

Also doubtful as witnesses were Maurice H. Stans, Nixon's campaign finance chairman, and John N. Mitchell, former attorney general and one-time Nixon campaign chairman.

'Massive Cover-Up'

An attorney recommended yesterday that they not testify and a spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President said they would not.

But Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) charged the administration with "a massive cover-up and concealment" by refusing to let the campaign officials appear.

The prospective witnesses were merely invited to testify — Patman was denied authority by his committee last week to compel them to appear.

The hearings concern financial aspects of the June 17 break-in and alleged bugging attempt at Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate building complex here.

Money From GOP

Some of the money in a bank account of one of five men arrested inside Democratic offices has been traced to Republican sources.

Patman said he believed the White House refused to let the Nixon campaign officials appear at the hearing because it "is fearful of what may be revealed in such a session."

He said the apparent refusal is "an insult to every American who believes in free and open elections."