

Democrats Step Up Sabotage Charges

10/11/72

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The McGovern camp last night accused the Republicans of more acts of attempted political sabotage and Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) renewed his effort to open a congressional investigation into the Watergate incident and issues steaming from it.

Frank Mankiewicz, political director for the McGovern campaign, listed 10 separate acts of alleged sabotage, saying that some of them were so well-engineered that, "they must have come from the Republicans."

While he offered no evidence that the alleged sabotage was Republican-sponsored, Mankiewicz cited examples ranging from a serious attempt to get AFL-CIO President George Meany to come to New York for a bogus rendezvous with McGovern to instances of telephone calls amounting to apparent practical jokes.

In a related development, Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, (D-Maine), identified in yesterday's Washington Post story as the victim of a White House hoax that apparently damaged his presidential campaign, demanded yesterday that President Nixon personally answer charges linking his staff to



FRANK MANKIEWICZ
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widespread acts of political spying.

During the morning briefing at the White House, Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler declined on 29 separate occasions to comment on the new allegations of political spying as reporters questioned him about the matter for nearly 10 minutes.

"My answer," Ziegler said in his final no-comment statement, "is that I have nothing further to say about The Washington Post story. It has

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been appropriately addressed by the committee (for the reelection of the president) and Mr. Clawson and I have nothing further to say."

Both the Nixon committee and Ken W. Clawson, a White House aide linked to the political espionage in the Post story, have flatly denied the charges.

The Post story reported that FBI agents had linked the Watergate bugging incident to a massive campaign of political spying and sabotage against the Democrats.

Rep. Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, cited the story in pressing again for the full-scale congressional investigation with subpoena powers into the Watergate bugging incident that was refused by a 20-to-15 vote of his Committee last week.

Yesterday, he called the members together for a 10 a.m. Thursday meeting because "developments of the past week have greatly intensified the seriousness of the matter."

Specifically asked to testify before Patman's Committee are Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Committee to Re-Elect the President; Maurice Stans, that committee's finance chairman; John Mitchell, former Attorney General and former a campaign chairman and John Dean, a White House staffer who conducted an in-house investigation of the Watergate incident.

At a news conference in the Rayburn House Office Building, Patman also said that the General Accounting Office "has taken up my request for a full-scale investigation of the financial aspects of the Watergate affair" and will release initial findings by Oct. 26.

"I am calling on the Presi-

dent to open up the records—all the records—of his campaign organization," said Patman. "I am calling on him to require that all of his personnel be available to answer questions and to reveal publicly what has gone on behind the backs of the American people."

Other recent developments alluded to by Patman yesterday included a story written by Clark R. Mollenhoff, of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, that reported that Ziegler had said that money used in the Watergate bugging incident came from Nixon campaign funds. Ziegler has denied making such an admission.

There has also been a statement by Alfred C. Baldwin III, who has been granted immunity from prosecution, that he participated in the bugging conspiracy and saw transcripts of the bugging addressed to a presidential aide and members of the reelection committee.

Patman said U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica's amended order issued last Friday "clears the way for these witnesses (Mitchell, MacGregor, Stans and Dean) to appear voluntarily . . . There is no legitimate reason for them not to appear."

Sirica has earlier prohibited out-of-court comment on the Watergate incident on the grounds that it would prejudice the case of seven defendants indicted in the Watergate break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic National Committee headquarters.

On Friday, however, Sirica said his ruling was not intended to affect congressional activities, political debate or news media reporting.

Patman said he did not know if President Nixon had

direct knowledge of the bugging conspiracy or any other alleged sabotage activities on the part of his reelection committee.

But, Patman said, "He's in charge, as he should be. He is responsible. If you don't run the campaign yourself, you lose control of it."

Rep. Benjamin B. Blackburn (R-Ga.), who attended Patman's news conference, told reporters afterward that the chairman "has no new evidence (in the Watergate investigation). It would be absolutely crazy for any witness to appear."

Blackburn, who said he would be in Georgia Thursday kicking off his reelection campaign, said the Committee could serve no legal purpose by an investigation and that further probing would be too close to congressional adjournment due perhaps on Saturday.

"There are individuals who support the other candidate but they don't want to talk about him," said Blackburn. "They want to talk about a peripheral issue, and that's all this is."

But Patman said his Committee's investigation would focus on "all of the financial aspects" of the charges against the Republicans.

In a letter to Elmer B. Staats, U.S. comptroller general, Patman asked the GAO to investigate the transportation of \$100,000 from Houston, Tex., to a bank in Mexico and finally to the President's reelection committee.

Patman's letter also asked the GAO to investigate "the manner in which \$25,000 in cash was delivered to the (reelection) finance committee" and "the present location of the \$125,000 described above to determine who now has pos-

session of this money and/or for what purposes it was expended and by whom and on what dates."

A spokesman for the GAO said yesterday, however, that his office "may not have the time or authority" to do all that Patman has asked by the Oct. 26 deadline.

There was no indication yesterday whether any of the four Republican aides asked to testify before the Committee would appear Thursday.

A spokesman for the reelection committee said he did not know what response MacGregor and Stans would have "and I don't believe in saying things I don't know."

There was no response from either Mitchell or Dean, but a spokesman for Patman said he

expected that at least some of the four would show up for the hearing.

"Judge Sirica has given them permission to talk and that was their only excuse before," said the spokesman. "They'll have to come up with another reason or they'll simply have to start talking."

The spokesman said that if the witnesses did not show up, "then the Committee will consider voting to subpoena them."

Members of the Committee, including all Republican members, voted 20 to 15 against issuing such subpoenas last week and the two Democrats and four Southern Democrats who voted no then indicated yesterday they probably would not change their votes.