

Patman Threatens to Use Subpoena on G.O.P. Data

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 — Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, threatened today to use the Congressional subpoena power to obtain information about an alleged mishandling of campaign funds by the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

Mr. Patman's committee is looking into possible violations of the banking laws involved in the transfer of a \$25,000 cashier's check, representing a Republican campaign contribution, that wound up in the Florida bank account of one of five men arrested in the break-in at the Democratic national headquarters here in mid-June.

Today, the General Accounting Office, which is also investigating the matter for possible violations of campaign financing laws, was sharply criticized by Mr. Patman, a Texas Democrat, for first agreeing to brief members of his staff on Wednesday but then refusing to do so at the last minute.

The same day, the agency announced that a report on its audit of the re-election committee's books, which had been expected earlier in the week, would be delayed until some newly collected evidence could be assessed.

Annoyed at Delay

The new evidence was obtained after Maurice H. Stans, chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee, called a high official of the auditing agency Tuesday night from Miami Beach, where he was attending the Republican National Convention, requesting a discussion of the agency's findings.

The same night, Phillip S. Hughes, head of the agency's Office of Federal Elections, which enforces the new Federal law on campaign spending, flew to Florida to meet with Mr. Stans.

Mr. Patman, expressing annoyance with the auditing agency's delay in making its findings public, said that he and others were now "under a growing impression that there is a high-level effort to suppress and modify revelations about the case."

Passed on to Stans

He cautioned the agency, which is the investigative and auditing arm of Congress, to "consider carefully whether its first responsibility is to the Congress or to private citizens under investigation."

Mr. Patman added that he hoped the agency would voluntarily provide the results of its audit to his Banking Committee but added that he was "willing to call the committee together to vote subpoenas" if it did not. The \$25,000 check repre-

sented a cash contribution to the Nixon re-election effort from Dwayne O. Andreas, a wealthy Minneapolis businessman who had been a supporter of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota.

Mr. Andreas reportedly passed the money to Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the Republicans' Middle Western financial chairman, who on April 11 gave it to Mr. Stans, Mr. Nixon's chief fund raiser.

The receipt of the \$25,000 was never officially acknowledged by the Republicans, and the accounting office is now examining, among other things, the possibility that the Committee for the Re-election of the President violated a provision of the Federal campaign law requiring the reporting of all contributions received after April 7.

The \$25,000, along with \$89,000 more, later turned up in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, a Florida real estate operator who was arrested with four other men at the Democrat's Watergate Hotel headquarters the morning of June 17.

Funds' Source Uncertain

The precise origin of the \$89,000, which was deposited by Mr. Barker in the form of four drafts drawn on a Mexico City bank, is still unclear. But it is known that the cash was collected in Texas from Democratic contributors to President Nixon's campaign and the money was then passed through the Mexican bank to shield the contributors' identity.

Mr. Patman's committee is now looking into possible infractions of the banking laws surrounding the endorsing and depositing of the \$25,000 and \$89,000 by Mr. Barker, as well as possible violations in the movement of the funds across the Mexican border.

Meanwhile, Lawrence F. O'Brien, the chairman of Senator George McGovern's Democratic Presidential campaign, who is the plaintiff in a \$1-million civil suit over the Watergate break-in, attacked Mr. Nixon here today for appointing Mr. Stans to a new post after his name came up in connection with the break-in.

Mr. O'Brien said that Mr. Stans, who yesterday became chairman of the Republican National Finance Committee, was known to have "received the money that subsequently paid off the individuals who were apprehended at gunpoint" in the Democratic headquarters.

On the basis of the new appointment, he continued, "we can only conclude that Richard Nixon not only condones but actually approves these outrageous acts."