

Bugging Probe Beaten

House Group Vote Surprise

Examiner News Service

WASHINGTON —

With a combination of Republicans and conservative Democrats holding sway, the House Banking Committee voted 20 to 15 today against conducting an investigation of the break - in and bugging of Democratic National Headquarters.

All 14 Republicans present voted against the resolution while six of the 21 Democrats defected to vote with the Republicans.

Chairman Wright Patman immediately adjourned the meeting, making unlikely any investigation or trial of the June 17 break - in of Democratic headquarters.

But Patman and Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis.) said they will try again to win committee approval on the investigation and said they believed both American public opinion and Republican switches will win it.

Blames White House

"The American people, in my opinion, will not tolerate this massive coverup," Patman said after the vote. "They will not tolerate a President using his political party to raise funds for political espionage."

Patman charged his committee had voted a "concealment of the facts ... engineered by the White House."

"I think the public will show it is quite concerned in the next few days," Reuss said.

Patman had contended that if the committee did not investigate the case, the

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people would never get the facts.

Rep. Garry Brown (R - Mich.), contended any investigation by the committee would prejudice rights of defendants and would hamper the Justice Departments' effort to prosecute them.

Terming the Watergate bugging "the greatest political espionage case in the history of the United States," Patman told the committee that waiting until after the election would give

those involved a chance to destroy all records and to leave Washington.

Brown argued that "a very probable consequence of (a committee) investigation will be prejudicing of the civil rights of those who have been indicted, and a further inevitable consequence of the prejudicing of the defendants is a prejudicing of the prosecution's ability to convict those who have been indicted"

In a last minute effort to head off a committee probe, the Justice Department said

a congressional investigation would jeopardize criminal prosecution of seven men under indictment in the case

Two of the unanswered questions Patman and other Democrats wanted to explore as why \$100,000 intended for the Nixon re - election effort was transferred from Texas donors through Mexico to the re - election committee, and why \$89,000 of that money reached the bank account of one of the men indicted in the break - in

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