

Announcer:...And, getting back to the report on Wright Patman -- he's the chairman of the House Banking Committee -- he issued a sharp criticism of the bugging issue today, calling it outright political espionage.

Patman (voice): We now know that President Nixon's campaign has included massive espionage and harrassment of the Democratic Party and its candidates. We now know that the President's election campaign will use virtually any tactics to maintain this administration in power. We're seeing an attempt to assassinate an entire political party through espionage.

Announcer: So said Wright Patman today....

KPFA newscast (transcribed from tape)

Announcer: (after detailing disclosures in Washington Post on the Watergate affair)Responses to these disclosures have flooded the wire services and newspapers all day. One of the most vigorous was that of Rep. Wright Patman:

Patman (voice): This morning's Washington Post details ~~xxxxx~~ the most sordid, and certainly the most far-reaching, political tactics ever employed by a major political party in the history of the United States. This is an attempt to substitute espionage for political discussion. It is a charter of the political handbook of the totalitarian countries -- it is not part of the American political tradition, it's not part of a country which prides itself on free and open elections. Whether we get to the bottom of this affair depends on the American people. If they want this matter investigated and if they want political espionage ended, it's up to them to demand it. The Congress will listen, if the people speak out against these tactics being employed by the Nixon campaign. I am calling a meeting of the Banking and Currency Committee for 10 a.m.. Thursday, and I have asked for four witnesses to appear: Maurice Stans, John Mitchell, Clark MacGregor and John Dean of the White House staff who has conducted an investigation of the Watergate affair. I am also announcing this morning that the General Accounting Office has taken up my request for a fullscale investigation of the financial aspects of the Watergate affair, and they will have a report in my hands by Oct. 26.
