

Nixon Aides Won't Testify At Bugging Case Hearing

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 11 — Four of President Nixon's advisers declined today to appear before the House Banking and Currency Committee to answer questions about the break-in at the offices of the Democratic National Committee.

The committee chairman, Representative Wright Patman of Texas, had asked the four men to testify voluntarily at a session scheduled tomorrow morning. The full committee refused to issue subpoenas in the case.

The four who declined Mr. Patman's invitation were John Wesley Dean 3d, counsel to the President; Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President; John N. Mitchell, the former chairman, and Maurice H. Stans, Mr. Nixon's chief fundraiser.

Letter by MacGregor

In a letter to Mr. Patman, Mr. MacGregor said that he would accompany the President of his campaign trip to Atlanta tomorrow and that therefore his schedule "does not permit" an appearance.

Mr. MacGregor, a former House member, said it was his understanding that the committee rules did not permit witnesses to be called without notice. This point was also raised by the Nixon committee's lawyers.

In a letter to Mr. Patman on behalf of Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Stans, and Mr. MacGregor, the lawyers said that committee rules required that prospective witnesses be given public notice at least a week in advance.

They also asserted that an investigation of the break-in, in which electronic listening devices were allegedly to be installed at the Democratic offices in the Watergate complex, had not been authorized by the committee and that the panel, in refusing to issue subpoenas, had voted against holding hearings.

Cooperation Alleged

They contended that Mr. Stans had "fully cooperated in every way with your committee." They said he had answered "numerous questions" during a private meeting earlier with the committee staff.

The lawyers also complained that Mr. Patman has "characterized our clients in the most derogatory terms." The chairman, who has criticized the Republicans many times over the Watergate affair, did so again upon receipt of their refusal to appear.

"This is a sad spectacle," he said, "a massive cover-up and concealment of the greatest political espionage ever carried out in the history of this nation."

The Texas Democrat continued: "We have now reached the point where the major political operatives for the President are shrinking out of sight. They now speak to the Congress and the public only through faceless attorneys.

"They do not reply over their own signatures and they do appear before either the Congress or the press to answer even the most basic inquiries. It is the first time that a Presidential campaign has been carried on as if it were being operated as a 'secret society.'"

"The letter from the attorneys is an insult to every single American who believes in free and open elections. It is an arrogant act. It is an amazing performance for people who are supposed to be seeking the votes of the people."

Walter Cronkite, the news commentator for the Columbia Broadcasting System, said in an interview today that last Monday a man had called him and had impersonated Frank Mankiewicz, the director of the McGovern campaign.

Mr. Cronkite said that the caller, whose voice sounded a little like Mr. Mankiewicz's, wanted to thank him for the greater exposure that he said Senator George McGovern was being given on the news pro-

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gram, as against that given President Nixon. The caller said that the ratio looked like about 80 per cent for Mr. McGovern and 20 per cent for Mr. Nixon.

The caller said that he wanted to warn Mr. Cronkite that newsmen covering the campaign were beginning to notice the favoritism and that he wanted to warn him before they did an exposé on it.

Mr. Cronkite said that he had told the caller that this was not true and had hung up. The next day Mr. Cronkite said, he called Mr. Mankiewicz, who told him he had never made the call.

Letter Writer Hunted

In other developments today, there were renewed efforts in Deerfield Beach, Fla., to find "Paul Morrison," the author of a letter that was used against Senator Muskie in the New Hampshire primary earlier this year.

The letter, published last February in The Manchester (N. H.) Union Leader, accused Mr. Muskie of accepting the use by an associate of the term Canuck, an epithet applied to Americans of French-Canadian extraction.

The letter, which was aggressively used by the paper's publisher, William Loeb, in editorial attacks on Mr. Muskie, came up again yesterday when The Washington Post charged that a White House aide had taken credit for writing the letter.

Marilyn Berger, a Post reporter, said that on Sept. 25, Ken W. Clawson, deputy director of communications for the executive branch, told her, "I wrote the letter." The Post reported that Mr. Clawson had denied making such a statement. Mr. Clawson was not available today for comment.

All Attempts Fail

Numerous attempts were made in Deerfield Beach and elsewhere to find "Paul Morrison" when the letter first appeared. All such efforts have failed.

Mr. Lieb said in an interview yesterday that he still stood behind the letter. The author, he said, is a young man who hangs around The Seed, a drug rehabilitation clinic in Deerfield Beach.

Mrs. Sheeley Barker, an assistant director of The Seed, said that she had never seen or heard of "Paul Morrison" and that the center had no records bearing his name. The "Canuck" remark was alleged to have occurred at The Seed.