

Patman Calls for Testimony

By Bob Woodward
and Carl Bernstein

Washington Post Staff Writers

Rep. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) said yesterday that he is calling his House Banking and Currency Committee together at 10 a.m. today in the full expectation that some of President Nixon's top aides will appear to testify voluntarily on matters relating to the Watergate bugging incident.

The top present and former aides, including Clark MacGregor, the President's campaign manager, as of last night had not told Patman whether they would accept his invitations to testify.

An official at the Committee for the Re-election of the President said there is "no chance" that any of the President's aides would appear.

While in Indianapolis campaigning for the President, MacGregor said he would not appear and called Patman's invitation "solely political."

Patman's committee voted 20 to 15 last week not to open a full-scale Watergate investigation and subpoena witnesses.

The other Nixon aides whom Patman asked to appear voluntarily today are John N. Mitchell, the former Attorney General and, until July 1, Nixon campaign manager; Maurice H. Stans, former Commerce Secretary and now the chief Nixon fund raiser; and John W. Dean, the President's special counsel who

conducted an in-house Watergate investigation for the executive branch.

In an interview yesterday, Patman said: "I certainly expect them to appear. They say they are not involved. This is a chance to clear the air. They should jump at a chance for an open forum."

In developments yesterday relating to the Watergate case and reports of alleged political spying by the Republicans:

- Sen. Sam J. Ervin, powerful chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, said that he won't press for a congressional investigation as he had indicated last week.

In a telephone interview, Ervin said that even though the Watergate incident and related espionage is "one of the central issues in the Presidential election," very few people on Capitol Hill are exercised enough about it to press for an investigation.

- Former Treasury Secretary John Connally said in Los Angeles that political intelligence gathering is "a fact of life. I am simply saying that it exists because we are all human."

"I'm not condoning political intrigue," Connally said. He added that, "intrigue is nothing new to American politics it's been going on for 100 years."

- Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) became the first Republican senator to join the Democrats in pushing for a full disclosure of the Watergate incident and the alleged spying. "I do believe that our party ought to fully and frankly and directly say anything it knows about it," Javits said in a press conference.

- Republican National Chairman Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) charged that Sen. McGovern has "clung to the (Watergate) issue like a drowning man clinging to a piece of driftwood." In a prepared statement for release today, Dole charged McGovern with using "the double standard of the radical left" by supporting Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers to the press, while denouncing the Watergate incident with "feigned outrage."