GOP Aides Skip Quiz On Break-In

Washington

Three top Republican officials refused yesterday to testify before the House Banking Committee in connection with the break-in and alleged bugging of the Watergate headquarters of the democratic national committee.

Banking committee chairman Wright Patman (Dem-Tex.) received a letter from Kenneth W. Parkinson, an attorney for the Committee to Re-Elect the President, saying he had advised Maurice Stans, John N. Mitchell and Clark MacGregor not to appear.

Stans, chairman of the re-election finance committee; Mitchell, former chairman of the re-election committee; MacGregor, the present chairman; and White House aide John Dean had been invited to appear before the committee today.

Although a committee spokesman said there had been no word from Dean it was unlikely he would appear because he could claim executive privilege as a member of the President's staff.

Patman blamed the White House for their refusal to testify, calling the decision "a sad spectacle — a massive cover-up and concealment of the greatest political espionage ever carried out in the history of this nation."

He called the refusal to testify "an insult to every single American who believes in free and open elections. It is an arrogant act."

"Faced with the massive scandals of the wheat deals, ITT and the Watergate and similar back-room deals, it is not surprising that this

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WRIGHT PATMAN
'An arrogant act'

administration seeks to crush its opposition — and its critics — through a massive campaign of espionage and sabotage," Patman said.

Patman still planned to ask the committee to reconsider its refusal to allow him to subpoena the officials and their records. The committee earlier voted 20 to 15 to refuse Patman's request.

Parkinson, in his letters to Patman, noted the matter was being investigated by the FBI, the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, the justice department and was the subject of a civil suit brought by the Democratic party. *United Press*