

Patman Fails to Get Quorum

Bugging Probe Try Appears Dead

Washington

Any prospect of a congressional investigation before election day of the break-in at the Democratic national committee apparently evaporated yesterday when Wright Patman, chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee, twice failed to collect enough committee Democrats to make a quorum.

On October 3, the committee voted 20 to 15 against a motion by Patman that would have enabled him to issue subpoenas to compel testimony by 40 named wit-

nesses and the production of documents.

He sought to determine how \$114,000 in Nixon campaign contributions was funneled from a Mexico City bank to Houston and then to Washington, and ultimately to the bank account of Bernard Barker in Miami, who was one of seven men arrested in the June 17 break-in at Democratic headquarters in the Watergate complex here.

Patman called yesterday's meeting ostensibly to question four Nixon aides — John N. Mitchell, former chairman of the Committee

to Re-elect the President; Clark MacGregor, his successor; Maurice H. Stans, the President's chief fund raiser, and John Wesley Dean III, counsel to the President, who has already done an in-House investigation of the Watergate incident for President Nixon.

There was never any likelihood that these four would respond to Patman's invitation, and they didn't—the first three on advice of counsel and the fourth on a plea of executive privilege.

Subsequently, the real purpose of the meeting was Patman's hope that if he could get a quorum of 19 members from the committee's 22 Democrats, he could also get a majority to pass the resolution defeated last week. He tried in the morning and the afternoon, and failed both times.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Watergate investigation said former Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian obtained confidential information from the Justice Department for potential use in Mr. Nixon's

political campaign after leaving the government to work for the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

On at least one occasion, the sources said, Mardian sent two men, later indicted in the Watergate affair, to pick up information from the department where Mardian had been head of the internal security division.

Mardian said yesterday through a spokesman that he consulted the Justice Department after leaving it only for information about possible civil disturbances at the Miami Beach Republican convention.

Mardian denied ever sending any of the men involved in the Watergate affair to the department to get information. *N.Y. Times Service*