New Report in Watergate Bugging Case

Washington

President Nixon's campaign organization received at least \$30,000 through a secret bank account in Luxembourg last spring, the House Banktee said yesterday in a new report on the Watergate bugging case.

The staff study, released by committee chairman Wright Patman (Dem.-Tex.), said "it is reasonable to assume that the total amount (from foreign bank accounts) is substantially higher."

In a response to the report, a spokesman for the Committee for the Re-election of the President termed it a "dishonest collection of innuendo and fourth-hand hearsay" and "nothing more than an eleventh-hour attempt to save Mr. Patman's candidate for President from what may be one of the worst defeats in American political history."

Committee investigators, in an earlier report on september 12, detailed how \$100,000 was channeled through Mexico to the Committee for the Re-election of the President. These funds, part of which wound up in the Miami bank account of a Watergate bugging suspect,

were from a donor or donors who wished to remain anonymous, authorities said.

The new study said that bank debit memorandums and copies of transfers involving Washington and Philadelphia banks "show that President Nixon's campaign received at least \$30,000 through the Banque Internationale at Luxembourg in late March and early April."

The Nixon committee has acknowledged receiving about \$10 million in campaign gifts before April 7, the date a new federal election disclosure law took effect. GOP officials have declined to disclose the names of these donors on the ground they were not yet covered by the new law.

The Patman committeed did not identify the U.S. banks involved in the Luxembourg transfers, nor did it allege that the funds were connected with the bugging attempt at Democratic National Headquarters last June 17.

"The Committee to Reelect the President has successfully hidden the names of the donors of these additional foreign checks," the report said.

"As a result, we do not know the circumstances under which funds reached the United States, but in light of the revelations involving the Mexcan transfers this is obviously fertile ground for investigation."

The banking committee study, in which investigators for the General Accounting Office assisted, charged that GOP financial records were marked by "inaccuracies, omissions and improper recording of receipts."

In addition, the report said, "the evidence . . . indicates possible violations of Federal laws and regulations involving bank record-keeping."

Among "discrepancies" in the Nixon committee records or the ledgers of its banks were the following, according to the report:

- A balance of \$2 million in GOP funds at one bank last April 7, "whereas the books of the reelect committee showed a balance of \$2.8 million."
- Depositing \$250,447 "to an account of a non-existent political committee."

L.A. Times Service