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Demos May Halt Ted's GOP Probe

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WASHINGTON — (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy's expected probe of alleged Republican espionage and sabotage in this year's presidential primary may be canceled.

But another panel may decide to investigate the charges.

Senate Doubts

Democratic sources in the Senate are expressing doubts that public hearings, if held, will be conducted by a Judiciary subcommittee headed by the Massachusetts Democrat, despite preliminary groundwork already done at his direction.

They indicated also that some Democrats are having second thoughts about any full-scale investigation of the Watergate bugging incident and related matters.

One source said the changes are that if hearings are held, they probably will be handled by the Senate Permanent Investigations subcommittee.

This is a unit of the Government Operations Committee. In the new Congress, Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) is expected to succeed Sen. John McClellan (D-Ark.) as chairman.

Mills' Concern

Rep. Wilber Mills (D-Ark), influential chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has said his concern is not so much with the June 17 break-in and alleged bugging of the Democratic national headquarters, but the published allegations that forged letters, leaked information and organized sabotage were used to disrupt the campaigns of Democratic presidential aspirants.

Some Democratic senators reportedly share the view that an investigation of these charges by Kennedy's subcommittee would have drawbacks in that Kennedy is widely regarded as the likely Democratic presidential nominee in 1976.