

AUG 5 1972

Nixon Stands By Stans in Bugging Case

SFChronicle

Washington

The White House said yesterday President Nixon has complete trust in his chief campaign fund raiser, Maurice H. Stans in the face of an investigation into ties between contributions and a man arrested for breaking into the Democrats' headquarters.

Stans, former commerce secretary who is now finance chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President, continued to remain out of sight and the White House said Mr. Nixon had no plans to meet with him.

Stans did have lunch in the private White House dining room yesterday but a White House spokesman said he did not see the President. The spokesman declined to name Stans' lunch companions.

REGRETS

Stans continued to refuse to discuss the case with reporters. His secretary said Stans "regrets deeply that so many innocent people are being bandied about in the headlines."

But she said the former cabinet official believes it would be "inappropriate" for him to discuss the matter publicly while it is still under investigation.

At issue is a \$25,000 cashier's check made out to Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the committee's Midwest finance

chairman. Dahlberg said the check — representing contributions he collected — was turned over to Stans.

But it later turned up in the Florida bank account of Bernard L. Barker, one of five men arrested in the June 17 burglary and attempted bugging of Democratic headquarters.

CONFIDENCE

White press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told reporters Mr. Nixon has full confidence in Stans and is satisfied the FBI and the Justice Department will adequately investigate the affair.

"The President has said that this type of activity has no place in the political process," Ziegler added.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the Office of Federal Elections, said Thursday his auditors looking into the case have been unable to find any record that the re-election committee received or spent the \$25,000.

"In my judgment, failure to report either the receipt or expenditure of the funds constitutes a violation of the (new campaign contributions) act," Hughes said. "But I'm not sure they haven't reported it. We just can't find it. That's what the audit is about."

Hughes said that although the money was collected before the new law went into effect, it was received by the committee — according to Dahlberg — on April 11, when the law was four days old.

Hughes said his auditors have talked to Stans and he believes Stans remembers the \$25,000 check.

United Press