

2 Agencies Probing Republican Unit's Funds

By ROBERT M. SMITH

(N. Y. Times) News Service

Washington — Two federal agencies are inspecting the financial records of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President in connection with the raid on the Democratic National Headquarters here in mid-June.

The Office of Federal Elections, a new watchdog agency within the General Accounting Office, has begun combing the financial disclosure reports of the committee for possible violations of the federal Election Campaign Act which took effect April 7.

Meanwhile, the FBI has purchased from the Office of Federal Elections copies of 250 pages of material filed by the committee.

Both inquiries are in part connected with the question of whether Republican campaign funds may have been diverted to the alleged ringleader of the raid.

Check for \$25,000

The Office of Federal Elections began its investigation

Bul-8/272
following the disclosure that a \$25,000 cashier's check apparently intended for President Nixon's re-election campaign had been deposited in the Miami bank account of Bernard L. Barker, one of the men arrested during the break-in.

Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the midwest finance chairman for the Republicans, said yesterday that he had personally given Maurice H. Stans, the chief Republican fund-raiser, the check for \$25,000.

In a telephone interview, Dahlberg, a Minneapolis businessman, said that he had no idea how the check got into the trust account of Barker Associates, Inc., in the Republic National Bank. "I gave it to Maurice Stans," he said, "and that's absolutely the end of it as far as I knew."

Stans could not be reached yesterday for comment.

DeVan L. Shumway, press spokesman for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, refused to answer questions about the check or any other aspect of possible

connections between the Committee and the break-in, in which five men were arrested with electronic bugging equipment, photographic copying equipment and a substantial amount of money.

Florida Effort

In the interview, Dahlberg explained that he had collected cash for the Republican re-election effort from contributors in Boca Raton, Fla., where he lives in the winter.

He said all the money had been collected by April 7, the

deadline for campaign contributions that would not have to be reported under the new federal law. "I elected to convert it to a cashier's check . . . at the closest bank," he said. The cashier's check bears the date April 10.

"The next morning," Dahlberg continued, "I attended a meeting of the finance committee and gave it to Maurice Stans." He said he did not know if anyone had seen him hand it over.

The check was deposited by
Continued on Page 22, Col. 5

Continued From First Page

Barker on April 20. It bore only Dahlberg's endorsement, not Barker's. Banking authorities in Florida characterized the omission of the second endorsement as highly irregular.

Four days later Barker withdrew \$25,000 in the form of a check made out to himself and dated April 21.

GAO officials said there appear to have been at least two and perhaps three violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act: that the check, dated April 10, was not reported to the Office of Federal Elections; that the financial filings of the committee failed to disclose the expenditure or transfer of any amount accounting for the \$25,000 (a separate violation); and a possible violation of a ban on any contribution given in the name of a person other than the contributor.