DAY, AUGUST 2, 1972

ELECTIONS AGENCY AND F.B.I. EXAMINE G.O.P. UNIT FUNDS

Inquiries on Nixon Campaign Data Linked to Break-in at Offices of Democrats

By ROBERT M. SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 — Two Federal agencies are inspecting the financial records of the major Republican campaign organization, the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

The Office of Federal Elections—a new watchdog agency within the General Accounting Office—today searched the financial disclosure reports of the committee to determine whether it had violated the Federal Election Campaign Act.

And the Federal Bureau of Investigation has purchased from the Office of Federal Elections copies of 250 pages of material filed by the re-election committee. The F.B.I., under its normal practice, refused to comment on the investigation.

Link to Break-in Studied

Both inquiries are apparently in part connected wit the question of whether Republican campaign funds may have been diverted to the alleged ringleader of the break-in at Democratic national headquarters here in mid-June.

The office of Federal Elections began its investigation following the disclosure by The Washington Post today 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 five men arrested during the break-in.

Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the Midwest finance chairman for the Republicans, said today that he had personally given Maurice H. Stans, the chief Republican fund-raiser, the cashier's check for $25,000.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Dahlberg said that he had no idea how the check had gotten 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."

Mr. Dahlberg, a Minneapo-

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lis businessman, said that about a month ago two agents of the F.B.I. had asked him about the check. One of the questions the agents asked him, he said, was whether anyone had seen him give the check to Mr. Stans. He said that he had told them he did not know.

Mr. Stans could not be reached today. His secretary said he was traveling and was "a very busy man" who was "tightly scheduled," with "appointments every hour."

There were indications that Mr. Stans had also been interviewed by the F.B.I. Asked if that was so, one Federal official said, "You can assume that all likely witnesses are being contacted."

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.

Mr. Shumway would only read the following statement issued on behalf of Clark MacGregor, Mr. Nixon's campaign director:

"This entire matter is under thorough investigation by Federal authorities, an investigation that has the full and complete cooperation of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President. In light of these facts and the nature of the investigation, I do not believe it would be proper to make further comment."

The question of Mr. Dahlberg's check came up at the White House briefing this morning. Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary, said, "no comment."

In the interview, Mr. Dahlberg explained that he lives in Boca Raton, Fla., during the winter and had collected cash there from some contributors to the Republican re-election effort.

He said that 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 regulating campaign finances.

Istayed in Boca Raton over the weekend," he said, "and not wanting to carry the cash into Washington, I elected to convert it to a cashier's check at the closest bank." The cashier's check bears the date April 10.

Handed Over in Hotel

"The next morning," Mr. Dahlberg continued, "I attended a meeting of the finance committee and gave it to Maurice Stans." He said he endorsed the check and handed it Mr. Stans during a coffee break at the meeting held in the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Dahlberg said that he did not know whether anyone had seen him give Mr. Stans the check. "The F.B.I. asked the same question," he remarked.

Mr. Dahlberg said he was being open with the press, as well as with the F.B.I., because "I didn't do anything wrong."

The check was deposited by Mr. Barker on April 20. That was the same day that Mr. Barker deposited four Mexican checks totaling $89,000.

The $25,000 check bore only Mr. Dahlberg's endorsement, not Mr. Baker's. Banking authorities in Florida characterize the omission of the second endorsement as highly irregular.

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

When Mr. Barker and four other men were arrested inside Democratic headquarters, they had electronic bugging devices, photographic copying equipment and a substantial amount of money that included 53 $100 bills. Through the serial numbers, Federal investigators identified the $100 bills as part of $89,000 withdrawn from the bank in early May by Mr. Barker.

Speculation on Checks

The involvement of the Mexican bank drafts—issued in the name of Manuel Ogarrio Daguerre, a Mexico City lawyer—has given rise to speculation here that some Republican officials may have been trying to make it impossible to trace campaign contributions back to

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Kenneth H. Dahlberg, left, Midwest finance chairman for the Republicans, said he personally gave a cashier's check for $25,000 to Maurice H. Stans, right, the chief party fund-raiser.

guerre, a Mexico City lawyer—has given rise to speculation here that some Republican officials may have been trying to make it impossible to trace campaign contributions back to the donors.

Assuming that Mr. Dahlberg's memory of the dates involved is correct, officials at the General Accounting Office said there appeared to have been at least two and perhaps three violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the Office of Federal Elections, said, "Regardless of when some guy out in the field collects a lot of miscellaneous cash, the date he turned it in to the committee is the governing date for the required reporting. If it was April 10, then the law was in effect and they were required to report it to us, when as far as we can tell they did not."

In addition, Mr. Hughes said, the financial filings of the Committee for Re-election of the President also failed to disclose the expenditure or transfer of any amount that would fit the facts surrounding the $25,000. "That would be a separate violation, if they did that," he said.

Finally, Mr. Hughes said, his investigators are checking to see if Mr. Dahlberg's check constituted a violation of the section of the new law thatspecificially forbids any contribution to be given in the name of a person other than the contributor.

The maximum penalty for each violation proved would be one year in prison and a $1,000 fine, or both.

In the meantime, Joseph F. Califano Jr., counsel to the Democratic National Committee, told reporters at a breakfast here that the Democrats plan to make their third request for appointment of a special prosecutor in the case.

Mr. Califano contended that Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst "has got to have some interests—even if they're unconscious — in not embarrassing the President and his party."