

O'Brien Charges ^{F Post 8/25/72} GAO With Cover-Up

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Democratic National Campaign Chairman Lawrence F. O'Brien charged Thursday that "every ounce of political muscle available to the White House" is being used to suppress a report critical of Republican campaign financing.

O'Brien, in Annapolis for a campaign meeting with top Maryland Democrats, said the report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) would have created a sour note in the GOP convention if it had been released according to the original timetable.

"The plain truth is this," he said. "We are now witnessing one of the most outrageous and blatant political cover-ups of this generation."

The report on an audit of Republican funds was withheld by GAO officials following a conference with Maurice H. Stans, chief GOP fund raiser.

No date for its release has been set.

O'Brien asserted that top GAO officials "were hurriedly dispatched to Miami Beach so

that the Republican high command could review, and perhaps amend, a document that set forth a number of violations and irregularities."

Asked whether he was certain the report did point up violations in view of the fact that it has not been made public, O'Brien replied: "I know that, I do. But I can't comment on it."

He said he had been advised by lawyers for the Democrats not to talk about what is in the audit.

O'Brien predicted that the report will be made public and said that "when the facts are known... we shall find Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew in the deepest political trouble."

"I make this flat prediction: This calculated Republican attempt to suppress and cover up the facts of this case will turn out to be the biggest political blunder in Richard Nixon's career," the Democratic campaign chairman said.

"It will cost him the election," he said.