

GOP Official Hits Critical Report

Pressure By Demos Claimed

Associated Press

Washington

A General Accounting Office report citing "apparent and possible" violations of laws on reporting campaign contributions in President Nixon's re-election effort is an inaccurate, hurry-up job, Maurice Stans said yesterday.

Stans, chairman of the Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, said pressure on the GAO from Democratic members of Congress is responsible to a high degree for the inaccuracies.

The report issued Saturday disregards evidence "documenting the Finance Committee's compliance with the law," he said.

STATEMENT

Stans, in a statement released through the official Nixon re-election organization, described the GAO report as one that "reaches false and unwarranted conclusions," and is "incomplete and inaccurate.

"The report unfortunately contains serious misrepresentations of fact and is so loosely drawn as to raise grave questions regarding its obvious hurried and premature release," Stans said.

"It is apparent that the strong and persistent pressures placed on the GAO by Democratic members of the

Congress are responsible to a high degree for the inaccuracies in the report," he said.

"It is indeed unfortunate that McGovern campaign operatives using the offices of sympathetic Democratic senators unduly pressured the agency charged with unbiased administration of the new federal election law."

Stans said his committee is asking the GAO to begin immediately an audit of the

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financial records of Democratic nominee George McGovern.

McGovern, spending a quiet weekend with his family in Washington, had no comment on the GAO report.

However, McGovern's political director, Frank Mankiewicz, charged that President Nixon is "sitting on a major scandal . . . that affects the entire administration." He predicted that this and "other corruption" will force Mr. Nixon into the thick of the campaign fray.

Mankiewicz also said when the report reaches the Justice Department, "friends of the administration will be dealt with very lightly."

DONATION

Stans said there was nothing wrong in the way a \$25,000 contribution from a Minnesota man was handled since the transaction was completed before April 7, when contributions became reportable under the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act.

And Stans said the statement that there are "possible" violations in the way Republicans handled some contributions violates the act which gives the GAO the power to investigate election

financing.

"This sheer speculation is contrary to the mandate of the GAO under the election act and beyond the terms of the statute, and constitutes and fundamental violation of traditional concepts of fair play and the proper administration of justice," Stans said.

CRITICISM

Stans also criticized the act as "a highly technical piece of legislation" whose requirements "virtually invite human error and technical oversight."

The act does not give the GAO subpoena power. The GAO forwarded its report to the Justice Department for possible further investigation.

Stans said committee members cooperated fully in providing all that the GAO auditors asked them for and that the effort detracted from the committee's primary job-working for Mr. Nixon's re-election.

Hence, Stans said, the committee was asking the GAO "to begin immediately a full and comprehensive audit of the financial records of Senator McGovern's campaign organization, which we have reason to believe will be very revealing."

MONEY

According to the GAO, one of the "apparent" violations centered around a \$25,000 contribution from Dwayne Andreas of Minneapolis. The money eventually wound up in the Florida bank account of ex-CIA agent Bernard Barker, one of the five persons arrested in the alleged bugging of the Democratic national headquarters.

The GAO said interviews with Kenneth Dahlberg, chairman of the Minnesota Finance Committee to Re-elect the President, revealed Dahlberg received a phone call April 5 from Andreas saying that he wanted to re-

main anonymous, hence was making the gift two days before the effective date of the act.

But the GAO said the money was not picked up until April 9.

Stans' statement said Andreas agreed on March 10 to contribute the \$25,000 to Mr. Nixon's campaign. Stans said a few days later that Andreas placed the \$25,000 in cash in the safe of a Miami Beach hotel and advised Dahlberg that the cash could be picked up by the Republicans.

CALL

Stans said the April 5 call to Dahlberg came when Andreas discovered that the cash had not been picked up and that the money was now being placed in a safe deposit box at the hotel in Dahlberg's name.

Stans said an attempt to pick up the money on April 7

failed when Dahlberg "found the safe deposit office closed." He said Dahlberg actually received the cash April 10.

Stans said "considerable legal authority was submit-

ted to the GAO, which the GAO omitted from its report, which demonstrates beyond question that the gift was thus completed no later than April 5, 1972, and was not required to be report-

ed."

Former Treasury Secretary John Connally, now leading a Democrats - for - Nixon movement, said the GAO report is a "nettlesome" thing.

"It's going to be harmful.

I don't think it's going to be a major issue, but I don't think it will help," Connally said.

Connally appeared on the ABC network program, "Issues and Answers."