

Fund Units Warned for Filing Late

By Morton Mintz

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Warning letters went out yesterday to the treasurers of about 250 political committees whose reports on receipts and expenditures in the presidential campaigns have not been received by the General Accounting Office.

The committees include the McGovern One Million \$25 Club, formed to seek \$25 million in small donations for the Democratic presidential candidate; the Arkansas, Michigan and Mississippi Finance committees to re-elect the President; the Committee for the Nomination of Hubert H. Humphrey, and the Salute to Ted Agnew Night Committee in Baltimore.

The filing deadline — the first of The three remaining

before the November election — was Sept. 10. Because that was a Sunday the GAO extended it by one day.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the GAO's Office of Federal Elections, who signed the letters, said he will do whatever is necessary to obtain compliance. He is empowered to refer "apparent violations" to the Justice Department, which, in turn, is empowered to start either civil or criminal proceedings.

"Some of these same committees were late in filing their reports for the June 10 deadline," Hughes said.

Up to now, the GAO has referred no late-filing cases to Justice, although the Clerk of the House has referred to hundreds involving congressional candidates. The GAO has preferred to rely on voluntary compliance, a policy that Hughes says has, over-all, been successful.

"However, the general election is approaching, and it will become increasingly important to have these reports here on time. I intend to do everything I can to ensure that, or to take the offenders to task."

Other committees that were sent warning letters include numerous Democratic, Republican and labor committees, committees for the presidential candidates, and miscellaneous units such as the Lockheed Good Citizenship Program in Burbank, Calif., and the Savings Associations Political Elections Committee.