

Nixon Aides in Bugging, Fund Quiz

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Two close associates of President Nixon were questioned today about alleged mishandling of Nixon campaign funds and the break-in of Democratic Party headquarters in "the Watergate Caper."

They appeared at separate closed inquiries.

Charles Colson, special counsel to the President, made a court-ordered deposition on the incident to opposition lawyers in a \$1 million damage suit filed by Democratic leaders.

The suit was filed after the June 17 break-in at the

Campaign '72

Democratic National Committee headquarters at which five men were arrested with bugging equipment in their possession.

Also today, Maurice Stans, Nixon's campaign finance director and former commerce secretary, agreed to undergo informal questioning by staff members of the House Banking and Currency Committee.

The committee is conducting its own probe of possible mishandling of up to \$350,000 in Nixon campaign funds. The General Accounting Office cited a series of "apparent and possible" violations in a report last weekend.

More than a third of the money was said to have been traced to the bank account of Bernard Barker, one of the suspects in the

break-in at the Watergate apartment-office complex.

The Washington Star-News reported today that the grand jury investigating the Watergate incident was probing the possibility that another former White House aide, G. Gordon Liddy, had met secretly with Barker in Miami several times earlier this year.

Liddy was on the White House staff for a few months last year and joined the Nixon campaign staff last December as counsel. He was fired June 28 after he refused to talk to the FBI about the Watergate affair.