

'72 McGovern Units Broke Election Law

The Office of Federal Elections reported Wednesday that most of Sen. George McGovern's local campaign committees technically failed to comply with a provision of the 1971 federal election campaign law.

The law requires that any political committee lacking written authorization from the candidate to solicit campaign funds include notice of that fact on the face of all literature and advertisements.

The Election Office in the General Accounting Office looked into the McGovern campaign organization at the request of Devan L. Shumway, information officer of the Committee to Re-elect the President.

Shumway said in a March 19 letter that he understood the Democratic Presidential candidate last year had as many as 750 committees and there was no formal procedure for authorizing them to raise money.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the Office of Federal Elections, said that the McGovern campaign treasurer supplied copies of written authoriza-

tions for the principal McGovern for President committee and 12 related committees, and letters to every state Secretary of State designating a state coordinator.

Hughes said Marian Pearlman, the McGovern campaign treasurer, reported there were at least verbal understandings in all states which committees were authorized.

Hughes said that the law apparently was intended to give the candidate some control over fund solicitation and spending on his behalf and to permit potential contributors and voters to identify unauthorized committees.

He informed Shumway in a letter that it appeared the McGovern organization achieved the objectives of the law in general through less formal means. But, he said, that most of the McGovern campaign committees did appear to lack written authorization from the candidate and failed to so state in their literature.

He said the matter has been brought to the attention of the Attorney General "for such action as he deems appropriate."