

Nixon Unit May Have Failed To Meet Mass. Requirement

By Walter F. Roche

BOSTON, Aug. 29 (UPI)—The committee that raised and spent nearly \$200,000 in Massachusetts for President Nixon's 1972 re-election campaign apparently failed to file reports with the secretary of state as required by law.

Detailed checks of reports on file in the Public Records Division of the Massachusetts secretary of state's office show no separate state reports were filed for the Massachusetts Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

C. Robert Yeager, treasurer of the committee, has denied he failed to make the reports. "I don't care whether you can find them or not," Yeager said, "we filed them."

The treasurer's comment contrasted with statements from another Nixon campaign official in the state who described the state operation as confusing and "a farce."

Officials of the secretary of state's office confirmed Tuesday no reports were on file. "We just don't have them," an official said.

Reports on Massachusetts-based political committees for presidential candidates are required under Chapter 55 of the general laws. Failure to file carries a fine of \$500 or six months in jail.

The Massachusetts Nixon finance committee did file required returns with the General Accounting Office in Washington and copies of those returns are on file in Massachusetts.

According to Yeager's own admission, however, those returns don't fully reflect the campaign efforts of the Nixon committee in Massachusetts. Yeager said all the money raised in Massachusetts went directly to the national Finance Committee to Re-elect the President.

Though some of the money eventually found its way back to the Massachu-

setts committee, more than \$92,000 or about 50 per cent of the money spent in Massachusetts, came from out-of-state sources.

By funneling the money directly to Washington and apparently failing to file state reports, the Massachusetts-based committee avoided providing a complete separate report on its activities here.

Many contributions by Massachusetts residents, some of them substantial, are included on the national committee's report but not the Massachusetts report.

Yeager staunchly defended the methods used by the Massachusetts finance committee and said the General Accounting Office had not filed a single exception to the final report.

The committee treasurer said he was "absolutely appalled at the way money was mishandled at the federal level. And you can quote me on that," he said.