

SFChronicle JUL 4 1974

2 Senators Ask Report Change

Washington

senate. Hubert H. Humphrey and George S. McGovern have asked the Senate Watergate committee to revise sections of its final report dealing with the financing of their 1972 presidential campaigns on the grounds that a staff report contains unfair allegations.

Without indicating whether the committee was acting in response to the requests from Humphrey and McGovern, a member of the committee staff said yesterday that the staff is making "across-the-board changes" in draft committee reports to soften or delete language in all instances Democratic and Republican, where the draft reports charged violations of federal law.

These changes are being made "in an effort to be fair," according to assistant chief counsel David Dorsen. McGovern and Humphrey are "being treated like everyone else," he said.

Humphrey (Dem-Minn.) and McGovern (Dem-S.D.) both wrote to committee chairman Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr. (Dem-N.C.) after staff reports distributed to committee members were leaked to the news media.

In McGovern's case, the staff report was critical of the McGovern campaign for diverting \$340,417 to his 1974 senatorial campaign although creditors of McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign had been asked to settle debts for \$35,322 at 50 per cent of their value.

In Humphrey's case, a

staff report suggested that Humphrey may have violated a federal law prohibiting contributions of more than \$5000 to a single campaign committee when he used \$110,000 of his personal funds in his unsuccessful effort to secure the 1972 Democratic presidential nomination.

In a letter dated Tuesday, McGovern said that "campaigns over the years — not only for the presidency but for the Senate and the House — have routinely settled debts for less than the full amount . . ."

McGovern acknowledged that at the same time debts were being settled for less than their face value by his presidential campaign, funds were being transferred to his senatorial campaign committee for the 1974 election. "But, in fact," McGovern said, "these funds were not available for use in paying off debts incurred by the national McGovern campaign."

The transferred funds, McGovern said, came from state and local McGovern committees that had surplus funds. "Those were funds raised on their own by autonomous committees working on behalf of my campaign," McGovern said.

Humphrey, in a letter to Ervin dated June 27, said that contribution made to his own campaign came from personal funds and that he had consulted his lawyer before making the contribution to make sure it was legal.

Washington Post