

Americans For Agnew Group Cited For Violations By GAO

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The General Accounting Office says it has referred to the Justice Department four apparent violations of the Federal Election Campaign Act by the Americans for Agnew Committee.

One matter the GAO cited in a report was "failure to disclose that the committee was not authorized to solicit funds on behalf of the former Vice President." The report said former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew's office said no authorization was given to the committee and Agnew's office demanded that the committee stop its activities, which continued into 1973.

A GAO spokesman said actor John Wayne was honorary chairman of the committee.

The report also cited as apparent violations shortcomings in record keeping and reporting.

The committee, formed in Washington but later based in Los Angeles, described its primary function as lining up delegates for Agnew's nomination for vice president at the 1972 Republican National Convention, GAO said. It reported receipts of \$43,929 and expenditures of \$39,176, with some of the money raised as late as April 1973, to pay for earlier services by John Daniel as a consultant, according to the GAO audit.

The audit was begun, the congressional agency said, after "committee activities became the subject of several news stories in the press in 1973 and after the then Vice President Agnew had informed the GAO that he did not authorize the

committee's post-1972 activities in his name."

The Office of Federal Elections, a division of GAO, said the committee sent out solicitation letters without including a notice, as required by law, that the committee was not authorized to solicit funds on behalf of Agnew.

The report said the committee apparently violated the law by failing to maintain adequate records and render detailed accounts of all contributions and by receiving a contribution in the name of another.

"According to committee records," GAO said, "Frank White of Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, Calif., contributed \$2,500 in November 1972. This contribution was not reported to our office because the committee did not file a report due on Jan. 31, 1973.

"In addition, our audit showed that this contribution was not from Mr. White but was instead from several individuals whose contributions were collected by Mr. White on behalf of the committee.

"Mr. White informed us that he did not maintain a record of each individual's contribution. Committee officials stated that Mr. White declined to provide them with a detailed account of these contributions in order to maintain the confidentiality of the contributors."

GAO said White told its investigators all contributions were \$20 or less, except for one.

The report said the principal officers of the committee were Greig L. Smith, executive director; Gordon Del Faro, treasurer; Wayne and Daniel.