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U.S. Violations

Congressional auditors found four departments provided radio stations with recorded news releases in violation of a law against spending public money to seek support or defeat of legislation, Rep. Torbert Macdonald (D-Mass.) said yesterday.

Macdonald, chairman of the House Communications and Power Subcommittee, said the General Accounting Office, audit agency for Congress, cited 10 instances where the Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Commerce, and Transportation departments violated the law.

He said he has "referred the violations to the Justice Department for possible prosecution of the individuals involved." He also has asked the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy to set up specific guidelines to apply to all such pre-recorded government news releases "to prevent future violations."