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Nixon-Audit 330

WASHINGTON AP - The General Accounting office announced Tuesday that it will audit the finances of President Nixon's campaign committee because of possible links to a break-in and alleged bugging of Democratic party headquarters.

Philip S. Hughes, director of the elections office of the GAO, said the audit was prompted by a Washington Post story. The Post reported that a \$25,000 check apparently earmarked for the President's campaign found its way into the bank account of one of the five men arrested for the break-in at the Democratic National Committee offices here June 17.

For the first time, said Hughes, "the bugging incident was related to the campaign-finance law" by the story which appeared in the Post Tuesday.

The GAO, a congressional agency, is empowered to make such an audit by the Federal Campaign Expenditures Act which went into effect April 7.

Hughes said the audit would take little time or effort and added that the Committee for the Re-election of the President has promised to cooperate fully.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., requested such an audit Tuesday in a letter to the GAO.

The \$25,000 check came from Kenneth H. Dahlberg, the President's Midwest campaign finance chairman, the Post reported.

Dahlberg told the Post he delivered the check on April 11 to Maurice Stans, former secretary of commerce and now the President's national campaign finance chief.

Dahlberg said he had no idea how or why the check was deposited nine days later in the bank account of a Miami realtor named

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L. Barker, one of the break-in suspects, the Post said in Wednesday's editions.

The White House and the President's campaign chief, Clark MacGregor, have said comment on the issue would be improper in view of the continuing federal investigation in the matter.

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