

No Serious Complaints To McGovern Funds

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The Office of Federal Elections said yesterday that none of numerous complaints made by Republican leaders about the financing of the presidential campaign of Sen. George McGovern has proved to be serious enough to be referred to the Justice Department for prosecution.

The complaints were made shortly before the November election by Sen. Bob Dole, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Clark MacGregor, chairman of the Committee for the Re-election of the President.

The judgment on the complaints was made by the elections office, a unit of the General Accounting Office, which is an arm of Congress. It came a week after the Justice Department formally charged the financial arm of the Committee for the Re-election of the President with eight criminal violations of the election-financing law.

In general, the Dole-MacGregor complaints involved allegations that various committees among the 750 for the Democratic presidential candidate had failed to register or file reports, had reported contributions and expenditures inaccurately and incompletely,

and had received illegal loans or contributions from corporations.

Phillip S. Hughes, director of the elections office, said in a 19-page report that many McGovern committees had "inadequate" record-keeping and reporting. But, Hughes said, his policy has been to recommend prosecution not of "all possible violations," but only of those "where we have not obtained cooperation or where serious violations have occurred."

One of Dole's charges was that McGovern committee reports did not reflect newspaper reports of contributions by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and his brother-in-law, Stephen Smith.

Actually, Hughes said, Smith's gifts, totaling \$5,000, were reported by the Shriver for Vice President Committee and by New Yorkers for McGovern/Shriver. Kennedy's gift of \$2,500 was made on Nov. 2, which was after the closing date for the final pre-election report.